General Minnesota Public Libraries
Mary Lukkarila

Austin Public Library (Ann Hokanson, Library Director)

Increased use from minorities from around the world, especially Africa and the Pacific islands. Access to technology, audiovisual materials for education and recreation for adults, and school support for their students are especially important to them. Bilingual and native language materials are not easy to find, so materials presented in easy to read English are especially needed.

Free exhibits and programming for adults and children are in high demand. It seems to me that we are having more success lately because we are doing more programming. We haven't really changed our publicity strategies, but we are drawing more people to repeat events and getting bigger crowds----I think because we are kind of on their radar.

The whole community is engaged in a visioning and planning process called Vision2020, and we have been participants, both as staff, as citizens, and as a vehicle to reach the community (especially minorities). I am proud to say that Austin does not seem to doubt that the Library will continue to have an important role in our community well into the future.

Babbitt Public Library (Debby Bocnuk, Director)

Babbitt Public Library houses an Art Gallery aiming to promote local art and artists, offering art for community viewing, and enhancing the environment.

Cloquet Public Library (Mary Lukkarila, Library Director)

Library programming has significantly increased thanks to the Legacy fund. In addition to Legacy funded programs, the library continues to partner with other groups to offer additional programming. A partnership with the Sons of Norway will bring several programs featuring Norwegian culture and commemoration of the Norwegian resistance during World War II. Our library is once again partnering with the Duluth Public Library in the One Book One Community program. The featured book this April is Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland. The author will be visiting our library in addition to the Duluth and Virginia libraries.

Grand Rapids Public Library (Marcia Anderson, Library Director)

The Grand Rapids Area Library was recently awarded a collection of materials, the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys, by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The collection includes 25 books and 3 DVDs on the themes of: Connected Histories, American Stories, Literary Reflections, Pathways of Faith, Points of View and Art Architecture and Film. The purpose is to familiarize public audiences in the US with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the US and around the world. The Library is collaborating with the Miles Reif Performing Arts Center and the MacRostie Art Center to host a mini-film series on art, history and culture. The collection also supports the Caravanserai Project hosted by the Reif Center which focusses on the art and music of Morocco.

International Falls Public Library (Diane Adams, Library Director)

Suitcase Science Show Description: Come and Explore the Science Behind People's Stuff! Is coming to the International Falls Public Library Thursday, April 25, 2013 with shows at noon, 2pm and 4pm. "Created by the Science Museum of
Metro Public Libraries
Pat Conley

Dakota County Library

2012 Summary: The Dakota County Library (DCL) has completed their statistical analysis of 2012 activities. More than 2 million people visited the Dakota County Library branches in 2012. The Library circulated almost 5 million items and provided over 300,000 hours of computer access times for the public during the same period. DCL is also working to build bridges between residents and information in settings outside their library buildings through technology-based services, such as Zinio, Boopsie, 3M Cloud Library, Homework Help and myriad other online, remotely accessible resources.

OCLC Focus Group: Ken Behringer, Library Director, was recently invited to participate in an OCLC focus group in Colorado with other library directors from throughout the county to discuss current issues and concerns. Behringer reports that “most of us were thinking about the same issues. Each library had seen reductions in staffing and budget – yet each director saw great opportunities for the library to provide services valuable to the local community.” Among the opportunities cited were a combination of technology innovations, such as RFID; self-service enhancements; and/or, streamlined, single-service points. Many of the attendees also reported a decline in traditional reference services as people found Google and other Internet resources; however, the demand for information services related to e-books, e-readers and tablets is increasing.

New Services Coming
In February, the Library Board authorized DCL to initiate contract for three specific services:

1. Digital signage (like informational TV monitors you now see in many buildings) within each Library. These will be used to deliver information on Library services, resources, collections and programs. DCL expects to roll out the signage before the end of March.

2. DCL will link its catalogs and webpage to a service that specializes in seeking and collecting customer comments about library services – a company called Counting Opinions. From the data in the biennial residential survey, DCL has long known that Dakota County residents appreciate its services – and it periodically receive comment cards with accolades or suggestions for improvements to our services, programs or collections. These do not happen, however, in any regular way or in quantities that would let DCL assess how to make services adjustments and improvements.
One of the more interesting aspects of the Counting Opinions is that they are running standardized survey forms for many libraries in the US and Canada. DCL is currently in the final contract process, but once it subscribes to the service, it will be able to compare our customers’ satisfaction rates with those other libraries.

Guns in the Library? At its February meeting, the DCL Board reviewed and approved a new policy related to guns and firearms in the library that had been drafted for DCL by the County Attorney’s Office. It comes as a surprise to some, but legislative action in 2004 expanded residents’ rights to carry firearms in a variety of settings -- including many public buildings, such as libraries, with the broad exception of public buildings that included court facilities.

For more information on these items contact Ken Behringer, DCL Director at ken.behringer@co.dakota.mn.us

Hennepin County Library

**Best Buy Teen Tech Center** at Minneapolis Central Library opened to the public February 1, 2013. The Teen Tech Center was made possible by the Friends of the Hennepin County Library through a grant from Best Buy; it is one of four Best Buy Teen Tech Centers being piloted by Best Buy nationwide. Other locations are in Miami, San Antonio and Chicago.

Through Best Buy’s partnership with the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network, the Teen Tech Center at Minneapolis Central will be part of a network of 102 after-school learning settings in 22 nations. Intel Computer Clubhouse Network will provide staff training and share resources which will allow teens to interact with peers around the globe.

The Teen Tech Center is a space that promotes interest-driven learning with access to a broad range of technology and digital media tools. Teens are encouraged develop technology skills during out-of-school time with support from peers and adult mentors through activities such as filmmaking, music and video production, and game development. Membership is limited to youth ages 12-19. Interested teens should visit the Teen Tech Center during open hours: Tuesday 2-8; Wednesday 2-6; Thursday 2-8; Friday 2-6; Saturday 12-4. Open hours will remain the same through this summer into next fall for continuity, as teens get familiar with the space.

February through April is a “soft open” period for the Teen Tech Center, to allow Coordinator Aaron Lundholm and other HCL staff to recruit teen members and adult mentors; start projects; and build community in the space. HCL is currently recruiting adult volunteers to serve as mentors in the Teen Tech Center. Graphic designers, university students, filmmakers, digital artists, educators and software developers are encouraged to apply. HCL will host Community Open Houses on the third Thursday of each month, starting in March, as well as quarterly Showcase events, starting in April. See all Teen Tech Center events.

For the rest of the 2012-13 school year, HCL is focused on service to teens during out-of-school time. Starting next school year, HCL will look at opportunities for visits during the school day.

For general information, blogs and updates, visit the [Teen Tech Center](#).

**LC Classification** is being adopted for all materials by HCL. Both Dewey and LC have been supported since the merger of HCL and MPL in 2008. During 2013, 26 of 41 libraries are being converted from Dewey to LC, including materials themselves and shelving/signage. All libraries will maintain separate biography and travel sections.

In other HCL collection news, **RFID tagging** of the majority of all circulating items will also be complete by the end of 2013.

Ramsey County Library

Capital Requests: The Library Board agreed to request the following from the County during the next capital budget cycle:

- $3.5 million for the renovation of 12,772 square feet and expansion of 3,728 square feet at the Library in White Bear.
The Library would like to begin planning in January 2014 and construction in July 2014.

- $9.9 million for the renovation of 28,000 square feet and the addition of 13,500 square feet at the Library in Shoreview. In this proposal, Administration and Technical Services would remain in the basement. The Shoreview project would follow the White Bear project.

**Zinio**
RCL’s new e-magazine service was officially launched on February 1st. As of February 15 our 163 magazine titles had already been checked out 4573 times.

**Staff Announcements**
RCL Administration hired Amy Aschenbrener as the Communications Associate late December 2012, after the resignation of Marissa Stranik as she steps into her role as a full-time mother! Kristi Saksvig, Communications Manager, is currently on maternity leave and expected to return mid-march.

**Scott County Library**

**Technology**
The RFP for the new Library Website has been written and it will be posted in the Belle Plaine Herald and on the Scott County website (www.co.scott.mn.us) on March 6.

The SirsiDynix Enterprise catalog interface will go live in late February or Early March.

**Savage Branch Library**
The mural, Taking Flight, painted by Greg Preslicka was formally unveiled on February 9, 2013. Maureen Carlson, Story Clay Teller, performed a story based on the mural with participation of the audience. As she told the story she created a clay inhabitant of the story and he will eventually “live” in the library. Greg Preslicka painted the mural over the course of one week while library customers watched in awe and excitement. At the unveiling the artist spoke about his process in creating a large mural. Members of the Savage Rotary Club and Commissioner Tom Wolf were able to attend the ceremony. Funding for the mural was made possible by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and by a generous donation from the Savage Rotary Club, and by support from Davanni’s Pizza in Savage and by customers of the Savage Library.

**Shakopee Branch Library**
The Smart Play Spot (SPS) project with the Minnesota Children’s Museum is progressing well. The contract will be ready to sign very soon. $20,000 in community donations was needed to complete the project. Since October donations totaling $22,441.25 have been received from the Friends of the Shakopee Library, the Shakopee Lions Club, the Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Pablo’s Restaurant, Paragon Bank, Rahr Malting, Shakopee Rotary Club, Sam’s Club, Shakopee Public Utilities and Walmart, and by selling wreaths donated by local groups and individuals. Any funds collected over $20,000 will be used to pay for annual maintenance fees, the Grand Opening, and any repairs or additions to the Smart Play Spot.

The Smart Play Spot will reflect the rich history of Shakopee. Based on photographic resources and existing buildings the design team from the Minnesota Children’s Museum will recreate design details that are inspired by the architecture from downtown Shakopee during the time period between 1900 and 1920. Graphics, a 10 ft. mural, and prop selection will help reflect this time period. Components will include:

- Steam Engine
- Canoe
- Tree with garden
- Grocery Store (modular wall structure)
- Train Depot (modular wall structure)
- Photography Studio (modular wall structure)
- Change-out building (3-sided building) This “open-ended” building structure can become a fire station, a school house, or a post office using signs and props
The Smart Play Spot will be completed by May 3.

**Jordan Branch Library Update**
The concrete floor was recently poured in the combined CDA Senior Apartment Building and Scott County Library in Jordan. It is projected that the keys will be turned over to the library system on May 1. If all goes as planned the new Jordan branch of the Scott County Library System will be ready to open prior to June 8, the first day of the Summer Reading Program. The adjacent St. Francis clinic and pharmacy is scheduled to open in April.

**Express Pick Up of Holds**
All of our branches have Express Pick-Up of Holds up and running as of mid-February. So far we’ve gotten good feedback from customers about being able to easily pick up their items on hold. We expect that the Express Check Out usage will pick up accordingly in the coming months as more people pop in to pick up their holds and then go right to the nearby Express Check Out stations. Our goal is to continue to connect well with our customers even as they have more self-service options.

**eBook Informational Sessions Well Attended**
We’ve had a great response to the eBook informational sessions we’re offering to our customers. With one left to go (at Belle Plaine on Saturday January 26), here’s the attendance at each of the sessions: Savage 1/3/13 - 34; Elko New Market 1/9/13 – 8; Shakopee 1/12/13 – 27; Prior Lake 1/16/13 – 27

With the larger groups library staff assisted, so we could split the attendees into groups depending on the type of device they are using (Kindle, NOOK, iPad or other tablet). Big thanks to Wendy Andersen, Susan Bernstein, Jenni Munnings, Eva Poppen, Angela Rasmussen and Hilary Toren for their help. Splitting into groups helped us to better assist people with specific questions.

Some of the comments from the evaluations:
“I had tried on my own to download books with no success. Now I’m ready!”
“The session was very well done. Knowledgeable staff”

**Drop-In Digital Help**
We started a series of drop-in sessions where customers can get one-on-one assistance with library digital resources (eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, etc.). We had our first session at Prior Lake on February 11 with 5 people coming in for assistance primarily with Kindle Fire devices. Our next session is Saturday February 23 at Savage.

**Winter Jackets**
The “Winter Jackets – Winter Reading for Adults” program will run February 1-28 this year, moving to a one month focus. Participating adults receive a mini notebook and can submit book reviews for a chance to win prizes at their branch. We’ll also have several author events: Mark Forgy, author of The Forger’s Apprentice at Shakopee branch library on February 7; Peter Geye, author of The Lighthouse Road at Elko New Market branch library on February 27; and Lorna Landvik, author of Angry Housewives Eating Bonbons, Patty Jane’s House of Curl and many other books, at the Prior Lake branch library on February 28.

**Teens Know Best Author Series**
MELSA also is sponsoring a great series of author events featuring favorite Young Adult authors. Here at Scott County we’ll be hosting Jordan Sonnenblick, author of several teen books including Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip”. He’ll be appearing at the Prior Lake High School on Saturday March 9.

**Longevity Awards**
Scott County recognizes staff for longevity twice a year. Out of a total of 41 classified employees with FTE ranging from 0.37 to 1.0 - Seven have worked for the Scott County Library System from 20 to 37 years, eight have worked from 15 to 20 years, and ten have worked between 10 and 15 years. Award recipients at the February 5 ceremony follow:
### 2012 By the Numbers

2012 saw significant changes and reductions in service at the Washington County Library (WCL). The Library went from 9 branches and one Library Express station to 6 branches and 3 Library Express stations as well as reducing open days of service from 7 to 5, closing on Sundays and Mondays. In total a 34% reduction in services hours from 2011. So it was with some trepidation that the Library analyzed its service numbers for 2012—the results were interesting and demonstrated that the demand for library service did not decline in many ways...it shifted.

While loans of “traditional” materials were reduced by 8% to 1.97 million, digital downloads increase 227% to 85,776. While there was a 34% reduction in service hours, **visits per hour** increased 14% to 766,400 and loans of “traditional” materials increase 23% **per hour**. In addition, reference transactions per hour increase 23%. And the number of library card holders increased 10% to 187,424 in 2012.

Two areas of service saw increased activity in 2012 despite the service and staff reductions. Early literacy services, such as storytime classes, saw increased attendance of 15% to 16,458. Use of e-resources including downloading of e-books, e-audiobooks and information from e-databases increased over 200%.

WCL also calculates the value of the services it provides to residents. The value per household increased 5% to $713 per household. For every property tax dollar the county invested in the library, residents received $10 in services using average retail values for these services in 2011.

### Looking Forward, County Employee Engagement Survey

Washington County conducted its first Employee engagement Survey from January 22 through February 5, 2013. The purpose of the survey was to measure employee satisfaction with work and working conditions at the County in order to set a benchmark for assessing employee satisfaction in the futures. It was clear from both library staff and county staff responses that satisfaction with pay and benefits ranked low, the Library staff responses showed great satisfaction with the supervisory staff and with the teams on which the staff worked. Areas of improvement for the Library included the need for increased communication and increased recognition.

WCL will embark on a six month listening and learning process to more clearly identify areas in need of improvement and to identify actions steps for improvement.

### Zinio

Thanks to MELSA, WCL will join its Metro area counterparts in providing free downloadable magazines to its registered library card holders. Staff began testing the service in a soft roll out in late February. The service, which provides access to over 125 popular and specialized magazines and journals, will become available to all library users in mid-March. Please note the number of items available at each metro library will vary.
Minnesota State Colleges - Twin Cities & Southern Region

Julie Setnosky

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)

Century College (Maura Smyth)

On February 13, the Century College Library and Multicultural Student Center co-sponsored a free screening and discussion of Prince Among Slaves, an historical documentary about Abdul Rahman, a Muslim, West African prince who was captured and sold into slavery in America in 1788. The discussion was facilitated by Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota with expertise in American religious history, and cultural encounters and race/racial ideologies in early America. Prince Among Slaves is part of the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys, a collection of materials provided to the Century College Library by the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association. Century is one of 840 libraries and state humanities councils nationwide to receive this collection, which is intended to address the American public’s need and desire for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations. The collection, which was selected with the advice of scholars, librarians, and other humanities educators and program experts, includes 25 books, three films on DVD with public performance rights, a DVD containing a series of short videos on art and architecture, and a one-year subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online. The library is planning a special display of the new materials beginning March 1, and will begin checking them out at that time.

Dakota County Technical College (Michael Kirby)

We made several improvements to our children’s section in December:

• We applied for and received the Muslim Journeys grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association: Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys
• We’ve started an online subscription to Material ConneXion in support of our Interior Design program.

Hennepin Technical College (Jenny Simning)

The HTC Libraries moved into our new spaces (at each campus over break) and are settling in nicely. Students love the bright, quiet spaces, new computers, and quiet study rooms (as well as the new student lounge and computer lab located right outside the library).

This semester the library also began offering online library instruction webinars to online and hybrid classes.

Inver Hills Community College (Anne Schroder)

Bids for the IHCC complete remodel have been received and they expect construction to go ahead in mid-May 2013. In addition to a larger instruction room and more group study and individual study spaces, the new library will have a silent study room with a door that will have only individual tables. During the construction period, the library will move to a small temporary space which will have computers and some of the most heavily used materials, but most of the collection will be in off-site storage so will not be available for ILL. The plan is for the remodel to be completed in time for Fall Semester 2013.

Our search for the open library technician position is nearing completion.
Minneapolis Community & Technical College (Julie Setnosky)

We have subscribed to LibGuides and Kathleen Daniels, John Daniels, and Tom Eland will by setting up our profile and converting our subject and course guides. We plan to make the LibGuides available at the beginning of fall 2013 semester.

Bill Vann and Cory Cain are evaluating our technical services processes and spaces, improving work flows, streamlining the labeling process, and implementing automation improvements.

We are working on several space enhancements and repurposing in response to both the shift in collection formats and increased student need for collaborative work spaces in which to use library resources and technology. We are also working on an enhancement of our silent study area, which many of our students have identified as essential. Jennifer Sippel is coordinating this project.

We will host Mark Ehlert’s Minitex workshop RDA: The Basics for Minneapolis on Friday April 5, 8:30-4:30. We will be hosting a zine event, final name to be determined soon, in our former periodical room on March 30, 2013. This event will include a panel discussion on Libraries, Zines, Maker Spaces & DIY Publishing, and will include panelists Christina Chan, who is putting together the exhibit D.I.Y. Printing; Presses Not Required at the Minnesota Museum of American Art; Lacey Prpic Hedke, a local zinester and organizer of the annual Twin Cities Zinefest; an MCTC graphic design instructor; and Rebecca March, an MCTC librarian who is working on reimagining the former periodical room space, which right now houses our zine collection. This event is being planned by Linda Ngyen, a practicum student in the St. Catherine University Master of Library and Information Science and part of a printing collective, and it is being shepherded by librarian Elissah Becknell.

This semester, in addition to Linda Ngyen, we have two St. Catherine practicum students who are working with INFS 1000 (Information Literacy and Research skills) faculty and also shadowing reference librarians during selected periods.

Minnesota West College (Marcia Johnson)

We have committees organizing for hiring for part-time and full-time positions for Minnesota West Libraries.

Normandale Community College (Adam Marsnik via Julie Setnosky)

Normandale Community College went live in mid-February using the new content management system and the library home page has some great photographs (Julie’s observation.) Normandale has switched to MnPALS Plus 2, is enjoying its new capabilities, and working on restoring active links to external products.

Adam Marsnik is getting ready for RDA. Normandale was also awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys collection and partnered with the Islamic Resource Group to do a presentation on the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf as part of the Success Day on Tuesday, February 12.

South Central College (Johnna Horton)

Renovation is in full swing at the Faribault campus. Fortunately, the library will remain open for the entire process, as it’s the only open computer lab on that campus. Ala Garlinska, the Faribault campus librarian is also establishing a LibraryThing account for us to display our new book titles on our web page.

In North Mankato, we are going to convert our major collections from Dewey to LC. The Faribault campus is already on LC, so this will help our students move between campuses, as well as transition to a four-year institution. This project is slated for this summer.
Minnesota State College - Central and Northern State Colleges

Cynthia Jorstad

Lake Superior College (Kate Vo Thi Beard)

The Harold P. Erickson Library at Lake Superior College is among the 842 libraries and state humanities councils selected to receive the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures initiative. The collection consists of twenty-five books and three films related to Muslim art, history, and culture.

Minnesota State Community & Technical College (Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Wadena - Perry Werner)

The MSCTC Wadena library will be starting the process of moving this summer. The plans are in the development stage yet. Included in the plans are several small group study rooms which the Wadena library has not had before. Also included will be an separate area for 25 desktop computers.

Northland Community & Technical College – East Grand Forks/Thief River Falls (Cynthia Jorstad)

The library is finishing up our ALS survey and recently submitted FY 14 budget requests. Our budget has been stagnant for years, but I’m hopeful the tide will turn this year.

It was announced this week that our VP for Academic and Student Affairs, Kent Hanson, has been appointed president at Anoka-Ramsey CC and Anoka Tech.

Traffic is down into our libraries. I suspect this is due to less opportunity to host library instruction sessions, due to one less librarian. So, with fewer students coming to the sessions in the first place, fewer students are frequenting the library after their sessions, once they’ve learned more about using our resources. Very disappointing, and I’ll hope to increase instruction sessions numbers next year, if scheduling (and stamina!) allow.

Northwest Technical College Bemidji (Ann Campbell)

The staff at NTC this spring semester consists of Ann Campbell, Library Technician and 2 work study students. Our library opens at 6:30 a.m. to accommodate several online students who work fulltime and need to have their tests proctored before they go to work. We are also open until 6:00 p.m. to cover the students who come after work to take their tests. We proctored over 700 tests this fall. I was hoping for a collaboration with BSU to build a testing center but that has not panned out. We will continue to proctor in the library which is less than an ideal situation.

Added to my job duties (other duties as assigned) this past year has been the management of the NTC Facebook page. I did not think that it would consume that much time in my day but it does take a fair amount if you want to do a good job. We have added several hundred to our audience which hopefully will help in marketing our college.

We have had a new provost in place now for 7 months now. He is hopefully going to implement some new programs. We are at a 50/50 split right now for on campus students and distance students attending NTC. I can already tell this semester that proctoring numbers will be up by the end of spring semester.

I was fortunate to have all new computers put in the library and a new student ID machine and printer were added this fall. Over Christmas break the ceiling was finished off in the half of the library that was remodeled 5 years ago. It makes a difference not having to look at pipes and electrical conduit!

I have had to add another book case but running out of room so will have to weed this summer.
Pine Technical College Learning Resource and Technology Center – Pine City (Cynthia Jorstad)

• No report from Pine Tech, but it should be noted Ron McGriff, their .5 FTE librarian, announced his resignation in December, effective January 31, 2013. Ron will continue to work as a library space needs consultant.

• The Pine Tech library web site lists Mindy Hicks as the current Librarian.

Vermillion Community College (Sharon Evensen)

• We recently licensed Easybibl for our students.

• We are in the process of creating a new library home page, it should be ready in the next week or so.

• VCC library received a gift of a 500 volume private library from two former college professors: one who taught U.S. history with emphasis on the Civil War and the other: American literature who mainly taught courses about Hemingway and Twain. We are going through these materials and adding titles to our collection.

• We are working with a variety of groups to bring documentary film Director Micha X. Peled (Bitter Seeds, You, me Jerusalem, etc.) to campus on March 4th. Evening presentations are open to the public.

• Rumor has it that Cate Stanton will be making an appearance at the library shortly after spring break to help us celebrate women's history month.

Multicounty Multiype Report
Ann Walker Smalley

CMLE - Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange (Patricia Post)

“Bridging” Information Literacy Video Production
A small group of high school media specialists and college librarians continue to work with CMLE in our attempts to Bridge Information Literacy Efforts Across Libraries. Recently, we crafted and implemented a college-student survey that basically asks college students:

• Based on your experience, if you could tell a high-school student three things to help them prepare for college-level research, what would it be?

We received over 400 responses from four regional colleges and have begun production of a short video capturing some of the responses. We hope to make the video available widely through YouTube. The video will be used for various purposes, and we hope to use it as a conversation starter at an event that is open to all types of libraries in late spring as a springboard to new activities next Fall.

Interlibrary Loan Service
Our organization continues to process ILL requests while moving toward sunsetting this physical service. Many locations have already begun making plans for using alternative sources for interlibrary loan. Prisons may make policy changes to manage this change in service.

Communication Strategies are Further Developed
• Staff now create 8-15 blog posts each week, then compile them in a CMLE Weekly Review email message where member libraries can click on a link to get to the full blog post. Rather than seeing huge spikes in our blog usage on Thursdays, we are finding that more of our readers are “hitting” the site on more of a constant basis.

• This quarter we are hosting guest bloggers and interviews of different library types.

• Our CMLE Facebook page continues to gather followers. Our goal continues to be increased interaction, which is still difficult.
• Twitter completes our tool set and we are investigating Twitter chats as a new possibility for our region.

Shadowing Program
Our staff is pairing librarians across library type to experience a day in the life of a colleague. We hope these experiences will further solidify all types of librarians, and provide a better understanding of what it means to speak with one voice on behalf of libraries. This program will support advocacy efforts and further our “bridging” work across library types too. An additional, alternative way to provide this information more broadly, is through blog posts of actual shadowing experiences, but by also doing interviews of some of our librarians.

Metronet (Ann Walker Smalley)

• Held a Wind Down on Jan 24 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. It included how libraries can help veterans by connecting them with various online services and include a tour of Tour the VA Medical Library and Patient Education Center.

• A Wind Down on March 7 is a “practice run” for Robin Ewing & Amy Springer who will present “What Can Libraries Learn from the NFL?” at the national ACRL Conference.

• Results of Information Literacy Task Force survey; 43 respondents from all types of libraries

   Topics of Most Interest

   • Tips for teaching information literacy skills
   • Training in teaching information literacy skills
   • Working with Faculty in teaching research skills
   • Understanding what is taught in K12 around research
   • Research review around what students know

• LeAnn is teaching two courses in the St Kate’s library school. Ebook technology is a winter term course and Readers Advisory is a semester long elective.

• Legislative Day is Wed, March 6. MELSA & Metronet have appoints with 35 Legislators. More than 20 library staff have joined the group to visit. Metronet is offering awards for subs so that media specialists may attend.

• MetroBriefs began its fourth year of publication.

• We are working on Camp Read-a-Lot. Will Alexander, the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature winner, will be the keynote author.

• The STEM conference Building Partnerships for STEM Education on Feb 14 was a success. More than 80 people attended. Metronet, MELSA, & Minitex are co-sponsoring the conference.

• MELSA & Metronet are planning another session of Libraries in the 21st Century for OLLI. It begins in March 27.

NLLN - Northern Lights Library Network (Kathy Enger)

SHARING OF RESOURCES AMONG ALL PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES

Northern Lights Literacy Initiative
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) supports literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in Northwest and North Central Minnesota. From early reading activities to advanced literary discussions, library literacy initiatives bring people together to get to know books in enjoyable and satisfying situations.

Media Specialist Workshop
There will be an eBook workshop on February 27, 2013, at Lakes Country Services Cooperative in Fergus Falls. Dawn Nelson, Instructional Media and Technology Coordinator of Osseo Area Schools, will be leading the eBook presentation/
moderation that will occur in the morning from 9:30-11:30, with Destiny online catalog training from Joanne Wald, cataloger, Osseo Area Schools and member of Destiny’s advisory council from 12:30 – 3. There is no charge for members of Northern Lights Library Network, but a $5 Lunch donation is requested. The workshop was designed following an online discussion in December 2012, when it was determined that many media specialists in the region need more information regarding eBooks.

**Minitex NLLN Webinar**
Minitex and NLLN sponsored a webinar on Britannica Elementary and Student Resources in Context for school library media specialists on January 17th.

**Mackin Consortial Offer for eBooks**
Mackin has agreed to offer reduced rates on two eBook subscriptions to libraries in the NLLN region: TumbleBook Library and Capstone Interactive Library. Both offers give simultaneous multiuser access on a yearly subscription basis. The offer will be launched at the February 27th eBook workshop with a 1-month free trial offer. Libraries have until March 27th to sign-up for the reduced consortial rate through NLLN.

**Caldecott Award Book Collection**
Carol Sibley, Professor and Curriculum Center Librarian at MSUM, served on the 2013 Caldecott Award Committee. As a result of her service, she received over 500 picture books from children's book publishers and would like to donate most of the books to up to five elementary school libraries who are members of the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). Along with MSUM, NLLN is sponsoring the initiative. An application process has been created, along with an application form. The application forms have been posted on NLLN and MSUM's websites and have been sent to NLLN members. The deadline for application is March 15, 2013 and the awards will be announced April 12, 2013.

**“Poets Across Minnesota” and The Big Read**
“Poets Across Minnesota” supports libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network region to encourage the love of reading, literature, and the spoken word by sponsoring poetry readings for regional poets at their libraries. Following a brief listserv query, 8 media specialists expressed interest in sponsoring a poet at their library. To support “Poets Across Minnesota”, NLLN submitted a National Endowment for the Arts grant on February 5th, requesting $14,000 to support poets in the schools. Betsy Vinz, Lina Belar, Kevin Zepper (MSUM), and Christina Sander (Fisher Schools), are members of the “Poets Across Minnesota” committee.

**White Earth Storyland and the Children's Museum of Minnesota**
The Children’s Museum of Minnesota and The White Earth Early Childhood Program are hosting the Storyland exhibit at the new RTC Tribal Council building February and March 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. Schools in the region are invited to tour the exhibit at White Earth by contacting Terri Darco at: 218-983-3285 ext. 1381.

**A Smart Play Spot at White Earth**
NLLN works with the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program (WECC/ECP), for the primary purpose of bringing the love of learning and books to children and their parents in communities throughout White Earth (please see http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/earlychildhood.html and http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/readmobile.html).

Over the years, the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program has involved NLLN in planning a yearly early childhood, “Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference” (see http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/conference.html). Last August, NLLN sponsored Douglas Wood (http://www.douglaswood.com) author of Old Turtle, and gave nearly 700 cradleboard books entitled, Cradle Me to conference participants (http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2012/03/cradle-me-by-debbie-slier.html). Cradle Me was a collaborative effort among early childhood leaders at White Earth (Barb Fabre and Mary Leff), former NLLN executive director, Ruth Solie and throughout Minnesota (Gretchen Wronka at Hennepin County Libraries, among others), and the editor of Star Bright Books, Debby Slier. Cradle Me is becoming a hit among childhood educators. Smart Play Spot is taking shape in the old Circle of Life School. Terri Darco and Kathy are planning programming for the Smart Play Spot, which will follow the mission statement of the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program. It is possible to bring books from the Readmobile into the Smart Play Spot during the months that the Readmobile isn’t running. Books in the Smart Play Spot will be used for programming in the Smart Play Spot. Shari Scapple, a professor of children’s literature at MSUM, is interested in working with us for planning programs, based on lesson plans. There are
also other early childhood experts who may be available to help design a plan for the Smart Play Spot. Since there are already Smart Play Spot models in place in Minnesota (Children’s Museum, Grand Rapids Public Library), Terri and Kathy will likely visit them.

- 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. NLLN sent the brochure on January 31, 2013.
- Read Aloud Book Award
  NLLN is represented on the MSUM Read Aloud committee. Book reviewing and meetings related to this initiative continue.
- The Little Free Library at NLLN
  We plan to post a Little Free Library on the wall outside the NLLN main office, Suite 254, at Townsite Centre.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

Strategic Plan

The survey used for the strategic planning process was designed using qualitative data collected from NLLN members at the annual meeting last spring and is now available electronically for all NLLN members. Information from the survey will be used to design NLLN’s strategic plan. Once the strategic plan is complete, all members of NLLN will be sent a card, notifying them of the services offered to them by NLLN. An electronic copy of the survey went to all NLLN members on February 19th.

DEVELOPMENT OF A DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Viking Library System interlibrary loan request was fulfilled at a cost of $5,000. Peg Werner of VLS noted the following in a letter to the NLLN Governing Board: “Viking Library System and Northern Lights Library Network have a long history of cooperating to provide delivery services to all types of libraries within the region. One reason for the strength of the collaboration is the shared vision of the two organizations. Both Northern Lights Library Network and Viking Library System have long supported the idea that securing needed library materials and getting them to the patrons in a timely manner is the focus of what libraries do. Being able to be flexible enough to always respond positively to requests is integral to this service.

The financial support of Northern Lights Library Network to this project continues to be essential as VLS attempts to fund the delivery program without the support of federal funding. Although every attempt is made to make this a cost efficient program, gas prices and increased demand for services continue to impact the delivery budget...

Viking Library System is requesting the same level of funding from NLLN as it has for the past several years, while keeping a wary eye on the cost of gasoline. VLS pays for the majority delivery service costs using state funds, which, by nature of the funding formula, decrease every year. Although we understand the difficulties all regional systems face, VLS does believe that interlibrary loan of materials, in this case the delivery portion, is an essential part of what all regional systems do, and hopes that NLLN will continue its commitment to this service which touches all types of libraries within at least part of its region.

Viking Library System joins all of the libraries in thanking you for your continued philosophical and financial support in this endeavor. It is very much appreciated.”

A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AMONG ALL COOPERATING LIBRARIES

School Library Data Report and Survey

NLLN is represented on the School Library Data Report committee. NLLN will be contacting all school libraries in the region this spring when the survey is ready to be completed.

Listserv and Constant Contact
The listservs and Constant Contact are being actively used to determine needs in the region and to offer support.

SAMMIE - SW Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange (Reagen Thalacker)

Highlights:
• Currently accepting applications for scholarships for Apr-Jun 2013.
• Currently accepting applications for the 2013 Teen Tech Week Grants.
• SAMMIE's Executive Director continues her site visits to area school libraries to meet and converse with the school librarians in regards to what SAMMIE is currently able to aid them with and what we might be able to do for them in the future.
• The Executive Director attended the 2013 YALSA Summit on Libraries and Teens in Seattle, WA at the end of January. After being one of 15 selected from 68 applicants nationwide, I was able to join 60 other librarian and non-librarian key stakeholders at the YALSA Summit. This two-day event was built in conjunction with the ongoing National Research Agenda on Libraries, Teens & Young Adults for YALSA.

• Speakers included Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project; Mizuko Ito, Professor in Residence & MacArthur Foundation Chair in Digital Media and Learning, University of California, Irvine; Renee Hobbs, Director of the Harrington School of Communication & Media, University of Rhode Island; and George Needham, Vice President of Global & Regional Councils for OCLC.

• The Summit was based around the speakers and breakout group sessions where those situated at the table would discuss four major questions facing library teens services: 1) What do we know about teens? 2) What do we know about teen digital practices, information literacy, access, etc., 3) Why do teens need libraries?, and 4) The future of library services for/with teens. Each of these bigger questions had four to five sub-questions that allowed the group to fully explore the breadth and depth of the bigger question. It was an interesting task conversing with individuals who come from not only from vastly different libraries both in geographic and socio-economic make-up but also in talking with those who don’t work with libraries directly.

• Minnesota was well represented with five individuals from our state: Gene Roehlkepartain, Vice President, Research & Development, Search Institute (MSP); Maureen Hartman, Coordinating Librarian, Hennepin County Library; Marika Staloch, Youth Services Coordinator, St. Paul Public Library; and Peter Kirschmann, Teen Tech Crew Manager, Science Museum of Minnesota Learning Technologies Center.

• Scheduled four ELM trainings around the SAMMIE region for May 2013.
• Switched the SAMMIE Teen Programming Kits between the two library systems in the region.
• Working with Plum Creek and Pioneerland Library Systems to provide transport, either in the form of a bus or in carpooling mileage reimbursement for those who plan to attend the 3/6 MN Library Legislative Day.
• SAMMIE's 3rd Annual Teen Summit is scheduled for the beginning of April in the two library system areas. Topics to be covered include teen library breakout sessions, YA literature, and social media & digital literacy and teens. In the process of securing Jody Wurl, Hennepin County Library, as our speaker.
• At the beginning of February SAMMIE has added a temporary Office Assistant to its staff.

SELS - Southeast Library System
Michael Scott

LSTA Grants
SELS applied for an LSTA grant through State Library Services to enable the school library media centers at St. Charles High School and the Glenville-Emmons Elementary and High Schools (two media centers for Glenville-Emmons) to become SELCO ILS online libraries. Work is nearly complete on this project as all three media centers are now online with the SELCO ILS. St. Charles High went live on January 17, 2013 and the Glenville-Emmons media centers went live on January 29, 2013. Some cataloging clean-up continues but is expected to be finished in March 2013.

SELCO received an LSTA grant through State Library Services to support library efforts as SELCO and its online libraries (which include public, school, academic, and special libraries) conduct collection-by-collection data enhancement procedures required by OCLC to become full OCLC members. Though the larger project is a three-year project, the grant will enable SELCO to hire a cataloger for one year to manipulate bibliographic records based on customized reports from OCLC. Work has begun on the first group of libraries, which includes 13 libraries and includes public, school, and an academic library is well underway with inventory schedule at nearly all 13 sites.
Continuing Education & Training
Weeding Workshop with the Awful Library Book Ladies took place on January 31, 2013 with 2, two-hour sessions for not only staff from SELCO online libraries but any SELCO or SELS member library staff who wanted to know more about how to weed their library collections. The session was well attended and was recorded and is available on SELCOTV's YouTube page at: http://youtu.be/xyNg3He_uJw.

Upcoming CE events in the region include:

• Mystery Readers Advisory on March 12
• 2013 PLA Virtual Spring Symposium on March 20 being broadcast at the SELCO office
• “Beyond an Apple a Day” Consumer Health Workshop on April 11 at the Owatonna Public Library

Library Legislative Day
Several SELCO staff and Board members as well as staff from member libraries will be attending the 2013 Minnesota Library Legislative Day on March 6th. Appointments have been set with 21 of 22 legislators.

Private Colleges Report
College of Saint Benedict|Saint John’s University (Kathy Parker)

Your private college librarian colleagues are doing exactly what you would expect in the midst of the spring semester, busy supporting teaching and learning. Several colleagues reported it was business as usual at their institution, with nothing new to offer at this time.

We have several personnel changes to note:

• Laura Probst is the new library director at Concordia College, Moorhead. She succeeds Sharon Hoverson, who has retired.
• Dan Mollner has returned as library director at Gustavus Adolphus. He is taking over director responsibilities from Barbara Fister, who remains at GAC.
• Carol Johnson retired from St. Catherine University in December. The two new interim contacts for St. Kate's are James Newsome and Emily Asch.
• Amy Sheehan is the interim director at Hamline University. Julie Rochat and Diane Clayton from Hamline also retired in December.

Carleton College (Brad Schaffner)
On January 2 the Bridge Consortium of Carleton and St. Olaf libraries implemented Summon as its new discovery tool.

On midterm break, Gould Library hosted story hour featuring President Steve Poskanzer and faculty members reading favorite children’s books from the Gould Library collection.

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

At CSB we are deeply involved in preparations for the Centennial of the College of Saint Benedict, which we will mark in 2013-14. As a preliminary activity, we are hosting a reception on March 20, the Feast of St. Benedict, to publicly thank the Sisters who founded St. Ben’s and recognize their many contributions over the past 100 years. As we’ve said in our invitation:

At SJU we’ve also seen a lot of activity in our Archives and Special Collections. We’ve processed the collection of composer
Richard Proulx, an important 20th century composer of sacred music. This short video, Meeting Proulx, is a reflection from a student who has been working in the SJU Archives with the collection. Will’s comments show how this hands-on experience with special collections is inspirational for our students.

CLIC - Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (Ruth Dukelow)

In January, CLIC welcomed two new board members: Emily Asch representing St. Catherine University and Amy Sheehan representing Hamline University. Library director Carol Johnson retired from St. Catherine University in December, and co-directors Julie Rochat and Diane Clayton from Hamline University Library also retired in December.

CLIC has begun the process of looking for a next-gen library system. Our advisory Task Force has met with representatives from ExLibris (Alma), OCLC (WorldShare), and III (Sierra) and will meet in March with ProQuest (Intota) to learn about their new systems. Our plan is to send out an RFI/Q in early April to select a new system later this year, with migration completed by mid-2014.

CLIC continues our “Year of Assessment” with a series of workshops on a variety of topics related to academic library assessment. Our final CLIC-wide assessment conference will be held at Hamline University on June 4, 2013.

Concordia College (Charlotte Knoche)

Concordia (St Paul) was awarded the NEH/ALA Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. We are in the process of designing programs that will feature books from this collection.

Here is some information about this if you need it:

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is a collection of 25 books, 4 DVDs, and other programming resources selected to help public audiences in the United States become more familiar with the people, places, history, faith, and cultures of Muslims around the world and within the U.S. The Bookshelf is intended to address both the need and the desire of the American public for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations.

Martin Luther College (Dave Gosdeck)

There is one significant development at Martin Luther College. We have contracted with Ebsco for their Discovery service. We hope it will be fully operational by the end of March. Progress so far has been good.

University of St. Thomas (Dan Gjelten)

• The Libraries are looking into the “outsourcing” of electronic course packages on campus - the nature, scope and cost of the practice - and ways that the Libraries can provide the same services with the same convenience using existing human resources and existing library content, with the goal of reducing expenses for the institution and/or students.

• The Libraries are working closely with the UST Director of Online Learning to provide high quality library support to the developing off campus programs that the institution is implementing.

• Usability testing is completed on a total library web site redesign which was launched in January.

• The UST Research Online institutional repository grew in the fall and now contains 700 papers which have been downloaded over 60,000 times in the last year. We are now adding student dissertations to this collection.

• The Libraries have engaged in several new efforts to enhance community and student experience in the last few months, including: circulating bicycles in collaboration with the UST bicycle club, bringing stress relieving “therapy”
dogs to the library during finals week, conducting a voter registration drive leading up to the election, sponsoring Open Access Week events to raise awareness to developments in this area and helping to sponsor many events related to scholarship, art and music.

- O'Shaughnessy Frey Library is looking into ways to consolidate points of service to the greatest extent possible, as we search for human resources and space efficiencies.

- UST Libraries staff were recognized at the CLIC annual meeting in December for their contributions to CLIC: Ben Durrant received the annual CLIC User Services award for his work on developing enhancements for the ILS interface and other innovations related to the libraries’ web presence; Linda Hulbert received the CLIC Group Effectiveness award for her leadership on the ILS task force which continues to research the next generation library systems as CLIC approaches a decision point in this area.

- The Libraries are working on a spring initiative which is intended to provide a number of digital signs and the associated programming in the libraries during the spring semester.

State Government/Special Libraries Report
Brooke Roegge

CALCO Activities

CALCO librarians will showcase their services and resources as part of an upcoming Minitex webinar. The noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 presentation, “CALCO Covers the State: Explore State Government Agencies & Libraries and Learn How They Can Help You & Your Clients,” is geared toward public and academic librarians.

The webinar is based on CALCO’s 2012 Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference program. Presenters will highlight how their organizations and libraries provide information to tackle reference questions on the arts, business and employment, environment, health, history, law and legislation, public policy, taxes, education and transportation. From History Day research to untangling legislative questions and understanding government programs, CALCO librarians are here to help. Registration details coming soon from Minitex.

Presenters include:

- Chris Anning, Senior Librarian, Minnesota Department of Revenue
- Dru Frykberg, Senior Librarian, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Haugen, Reference Librarian, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
- Karen Neinstadt, Reference and Outreach Librarian, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Brigid Shields, Reference Librarian, Minnesota Historical Society Library
- Qin Tang, Technical Services Librarian, Minnesota Department of Transportation

In other news, CALCO recently welcomed 3 new associate members. We began accepting applications for associate members last fall. Interested in becoming an associate member? Download an application here: http://www.libraries.state.mn.us/calco_resource.html Associate members can join the CALCO listserv and are welcome to attend CALCO meetings, trainings, and other events.

Dept. of Employment & Economic Development Library (DEED) (Brooke Roegge)

We’ve been gradually building a digital library for DEED’s publications and recently made our collections available to the public. Visit the new digital library at http://cdm16105.contentdm.oclc.org. The library contains a variety of digital collections, including:

- Annual reports from DEED and agencies that preceded DEED. (Our annual reports date back to the 1950s and
What's available now in the digital library is not the final product – we continue to add new items daily. Check it out!

Minnesota Dept. of Transportation (Mn/DOT) Library (Sheila Hatchell)

As part of an office meeting, library staff had the opportunity to tour the 3M Innovation Lab. It was interesting to learn about innovative projects related to transportation and engineering. Staff attended Active Shooter Training in preparation for something we hope we will never need to use. We felt it was something staff should be exposed to, both for safety in their professional and personal lives. Lt. Don Marose who is in charge of security for the Capitol complex met with us, reviewed our space, and answered lots of questions.

To capture all of the celebratory moments relating to the library’s winning of the ALA John Cotton Dana Award in 2012, a commemorative booklet was created and published. It is available online from our website at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/library/PDF/JCD-commemorative-booklet.pdf

Library director Sheila Hatchell is a co-author of the recently-published Proving Your Library’s Value: A Toolkit for Transportation Librarians. The toolkit was developed in response to the dearth of library valuation/ROI research conducted for special libraries. While designed with transportation libraries in mind, the toolkit should be useful for other special libraries. The toolkit is providing the foundation for a valuation study of the MnDOT library to be completed this spring. The toolkit is freely available at: http://libraryconnectivity.org/files/Proving-Your-Libraries-Value2.pdf

Minnesota Library Futurists Emily Hope-Hofher and Dillon Young facilitated a half day workshop (a free service from the Library Futurists) with MnDOT Library and University of Minnesota staff. We had lots of fun and challenged the creative side of our brains as we created several action items that were grouped into the following six categories: (1) Engage with internal MnDOT; (2) Engage in shameless self-promotion; (3) Increase external use of space; (4) Increase reference access; (5) Expand collection access through MnPALS and beyond; and (6) Create a digitization plan. This has been very helpful to us as we prioritize the action items and create the plan for our library’s future development and growth.

A Drexel University library science student chose MnDOT library for her case study project. She spent a day with us learning about library services and staff functions, as well as MnDOT’s strategic vision, directions, and flagship initiatives.

We welcomed our new library intern, Danae Ostroot, who is working on her MLIS degree from St. Catherine University. Danae’s position is made possible through our Minnesota Transportation Libraries partnership with the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies.

In November we said good-bye to transportation commissioner Tom Sorel and in January we welcomed our new commissioner, Charlie Zelle.

Reference question of the quarter: A literature search to identify organizations that would potentially support a Complete Streets program, resulting in 821+ web links document.

Legislative Reference Library (LRL) (Robbie LaFleur)

The 2013 session of the Minnesota Legislature is underway and the library is filled with students and lobbyists each day. The librarians are busy helping legislators and staff with requests. In the midst of this, we’ve still found time to release a number of new online resources. We added public access to our database of historical information on state agencies. (more: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=211)

In line with our philosophy of getting information out of file cabinets and up on the Web, we scanned a collection of House and Senate floor session logs. (More: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=214) A couple of years ago
we stopped adding materials to our long-time vertical file collection, and changed to a new version, which we call the Virtual File. (More: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=195)

We’ve created some fun legislative pages, including maps of the home cities of legislative leaders over time (more: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=200), tables of the longest-serving members (more: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=196), and party control back to 1900 (more: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=202). Our clever programmer added small maps to the records of all the legislators in the Legislators Past & Present database. (more: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/blog.aspx?articleid=205)

We created an email list to subscribe to the Library’s occasional “Library News” items; it’s a great way to keep up with new LRL projects. Sign up here: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/listserv.aspx

In the midst of this, I am retiring from my position as director, knowing that the Library is in the hands of a fabulous team. I’ve had the best position ever, situated in an ever-interesting institution, filled with the opportunity to innovate, and with the best colleagues - in the Library, in the Legislature, and around the state.

**State University Libraries’ Report**

**Joan Roca**

**Minnesota State University Moorhead (Brittney Goodman)**

- The Livingston Lord Library and Technology Center Renovation Project continues, with an estimated completion date of March 2014. Currently, the Library’s 3rd and 4th floor are being renovated, with new ceiling tiles, HVAC, carpet, paint, etc. Because patrons and staff are not allowed in the construction area during active construction time, the library staff and student employees are doing a “pull service” with an approximate 24 hour turn-around time. Holds are initiated via MnPALS and books are pulled in the evening for next morning pickup.

- Budget requests are being processed and are due in mid-March for all academic units, including the library. Adjuncts working in the library for Spring 2013 are Christofer Meissner and Leslie Klingenstein.

**Minnesota State University, Mankato (Joan Roca)**

- We have informally open the two new (remodeled) rooms on the main floor of the library designated for quiet study (one with computers and one without). Students found them right away and love them.

- We are interviewing candidates for the two new librarian positions: the Digital Initiatives Librarian and the Instructional Services Librarian to start next Fall.

- The university is engaged with the search for a new Provost and interviews are starting next week.

**Southwest Minnesota State University (Kathleen Ashe)**

- The McFarland Library received approval late in the year for a probationary position to replace our retiring Acquisitions Librarian, Sandy Hoffbeck. Sandy has served the library and students since 1989. She served on many PALS committees and task forces over the years and will be sorely missed. The advertisement went out this week and we are hoping to complete the search by the end of the academic year.

- This week the Board of Trustees approved Dr. Connie Gores, currently a VP at Winona State, as Southwest Minnesota State University’s new president. The Library is making plans to meet with her to introduce her to the library services and staff once she is on board this summer.

- The librarians have been working on a 3-5 year strategic plan since September. We are making good progress and expect to have a working document by May when all staff will meet to identify the goals/initiatives that we will focus on during the 2013/2014 academic year.
University of Minnesota - Coordinate Campus
LeAnn Dean

University of Minnesota, Crookston
The UMC Library recently purchased the DVD library of an area educational cooperative. This purchase added approximately 600 new titles to the UMC collection. Library staff continues to work towards the migration to Alma. Library staff looks forward to working with the other U of M campuses on this joint venture.

University of Minnesota, Morris
Briggs Library is partnering with Student Counseling Center to create a “Listening Room” in the library. Located in one of the faculty carrels, peer counselors will staff the room during evening hours. Briggs Library and Briggs Library Associates were co-sponsors of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival February 21-23. Featuring five writers and poets and located in the library, the festival included both readings and workshops. The Library staff is investing time and effort in participating in U of M wide working groups and in preparing data and records for migration to the Alma automation system.

University of Minnesota, Rochester
No report at this time.

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Wendy Pradt Lougee

RECENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

eLearning
The Libraries have increased resources in support of eLearning initiatives on campus.

- A project in collaboration with the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is providing guidance on identifying and integrating digital content into courses, with particular focus on availability through licenses and open educational resources. Licensed or open content was integrated within five classes (with a total of nine sections) with an average savings of $42/student on course materials.

- The University Libraries are also working to support CEHD in its initiative to create a catalog of open textbooks and infrastructure to support peer review of texts.

- The Libraries’ eLearning team is also investigating new e-reserves software to take advantage of new technology that will work better on tablet and mobile devices.

- A group with several campus partners from the Libraries, the Office of Information Technology, CEHD, the Campus Bookstore, and the Copyright Permissions Center is working to create a more seamless experience for faculty requesting course content. An integrated online system is being specified to bring together course materials and provide students with seamless and easy access to course content.

- The campus has signed an agreement with Coursera to provide Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Libraries’ staff are working with the initial faculty selected to offer MOOCs to review options for course content and copyright issues in this open context.

The Health Sciences Library Offers Training in Evidence-Based Practice
Academic Health Center schools are interested in teaching evidence-based practice (EBP) to their faculty and students. Three librarians from the Health Sciences Libraries recognized a need for locally-based training and collaborated with faculty from the Medical School, School of Nursing and College of Pharmacy to develop a train-the-trainer workshop called “Empowering Evidence” which was held in early January. An interprofessional group of twenty-two participants learned the value of EBP via lecture and small-group activities. Workshop feedback was overwhelmingly positive and
we hope to offer the next iteration of the workshop in the near future.

**Next Generation Discovery System -- Primo Central**
The Libraries selected Primo Central as our next-generation discovery system. This system selection extends our agreement for Primo to include Primo Central and shifts the overall service to an Ex Libris-hosted “cloud” service. Ex Libris Primo Central meets core requirements held by the Libraries, including the ability to work seamlessly with Alma, as well as to integrate OPAC transaction functions (holds, recalls, user account views, etc.) within the discovery environment.

**Open Access Support**
In August 2012, the University established its first Open Access Publishing Fund, with funds from the budget of the University Libraries and the Office of the Vice President of Research. Funds are available to UMN authors from all campuses, to cover the costs of making their publications available to the world. The proposal for the fund came from the Senate Library Committee and Nancy Sims is the Libraries’ point person for this fund.

**STAFF APPOINTMENTS**
- Shannon Farrell joined the University Libraries in December. She is the Natural Resources Librarian. She was most recently an Assistant Professor and Agricultural Sciences Librarian at Colorado State University.
- Josh Bishoff joined the University Libraries in December as a Science Librarian. He was most recently a Visiting Professor at the Grainger Engineering Library at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- Cody Hanson became Acting Director of Web Development, as Shane Nackerud and John Barneson transitioned into their two-year project roles in the Libraries’ eLearning Support Initiative.
- Kristi Jensen is also on assignment for one year as Co-Lead for the Libraries eLearning Support Initiative, while Kirsten Clark is serving as Interim Director for Social Sciences and Professional Programs for one year.

**CURRENT EXHIBITS**

**Creating the World for the Stage: 1893-1929 - An Exhibit of Scenic Sketches**
Through Friday, March 15, 2013
Elmer L. Andersen Library
http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events/university-libraries-exhibits/creating-the-world-for-the-sta-1.html

**Seeing Symmetry**
Through Friday, March 8, 2013
Great Hall, Second Floor, Walter Library
http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events/seeing-symmetry-math-has-never.html

**Black History Month Exhibit, Wilson Library**
Through March 15
1st Floor, Opposite the Information Desk