Minitex Announces New Suite of eResources

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Education – State Library Services, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN), the North Dakota State Library, South Dakota Library Network (SDLN), the South Dakota State Library, and itself, Minitex is pleased to announce the databases and database packages recommended by the Minitex Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force. This was a result of the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was developed and issued during 2013-2014. These collaborative partners realize the importance of statewide access to a common suite of databases to the libraries and school media centers within and among the three states.

In coordination with Elaine Kelash, Manager/Contracts Specialist, University of Minnesota Purchasing, Minitex finalized award and license agreements with the following vendors for access to the following statewide electronic resources. These resources will be available beginning July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017, with the option to renew two additional one-year terms. Current access will continue uninterrupted.

In addition to the renewal of the current suite of valued and trusted eresources from Britannica, Cengage Gale, EBSCO, ProQuest, and OCLC as a result of this RFP process, new content was added from LearningExpress, LLC.

**EBSCO databases (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota)**
- Academic Search Premier
- Alt HealthWatch
- Business Source Premier
- Consumer Health Complete
- ERIC
- Health Source: Consumer Edition
- Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
- MAS Ultra – School Edition
- MasterFILE Premier
- MegaFILE
- Middle Search Plus
- Points of View Reference Center
- Primary Search
- Professional Development Collection
- Regional Business News
- Searchasaurus
- Science Reference Center
- Student Research Center

**Gale Group for K-12 electronic resources (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota)**

- Discovering Collection
- Expanded Academic ASAP
- Educator's Reference Complete
- General Science Collection
- InfoTrac Student Edition
- InfoTrac Junior Edition
- Junior Reference Collection
- Kids InfoBits
- Student Resources in Context, formerly Student Resource Center Gold

**OCLC for the FirstSearch Base Package, which will transition to WorldCat Discovery Services (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota)**

- OCLC WorldCat
- CAMIO
- OAIStor
ProQuest Newsstand Complete, the current package (Minnesota and North Dakota only)

Encyclopaedia Britannica’s General Reference Package (Minnesota and North Dakota only)

LearningExpress, LLC (Minnesota and North Dakota only)

Gale’s Spanish-language database ¡Informe! (Minnesota only)

Two Gannett papers, the St. Cloud Times and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, from ProQuest were not renewed. This was a Minnesota-only subscription.

Additional information will follow over the coming weeks as we work with LearningExpress to set up access. Access to LearningExpress products for current subscribers will continue without interruption.
understand the work and time any changes may take to implement in your libraries and schools and will provide needed information as quickly as possible.

The Minitex CPERS staff, Rita Baladad, Tim Peters, and Anne Hatinen, and the vendors' sales teams will work closely with you as some of you transition between vendor products, (e.g., the 2 Gannett papers). Similarly, the Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction staff, Jennifer Hootman, Matt Lee, Carla Steinberg Pfahl, and Beth Staats, and vendors' staff will work to provide instruction and training for you and your colleagues on the resources we have awarded.

On behalf of Minitex and the libraries and school media centers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, thank you to the MEIR Task Force members for participating in and their institutions for supporting them through the RFP process. Their dedication, commitment, and expertise were outstanding!

Minnesota's MEIR Task Force members and funding partners:

- Tammy Bobrowsky – Bemidji State University
- Theresa Borchert – Concordia College
- Peter Bremer – University of Minnesota, Morris
- Joel Brenckman – Willmar Public Schools
- Laurie Conzemius – Park Rapids Area High School
- Shannon Crary – Hennepin County Library
- Carolyn DeLuca – University of St. Thomas
- Mary Dennison – Rochester Community & Technical College
- Mary Lou Dresbach – Minnesota Office of Higher Education: funding partner
- Casey Duevel – Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Janet Fransen – University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- Dru Frykberg – MN Department of Employment & Economic Development
- Maureen Gormley – Dakota County Library
- Cody Hanson – University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- Valerie Horton – Minitex: funding partner
- Pam Leindecker – Anoka High School
- Randi Madisen – Century College
- Maureen Maloney – Duluth Public Library
- Jennifer Nelson – MN Dept. of Education, State Library Services: funding partner
- Karen Qualey – Olson Middle School
- Jennifer Quinlan – St. Cloud State University
- Jenny Rodger – Moorhead Public Library/Lake Agassiz Regional Library
- Reagen Thalacker – SELCO/SELS
Kathy Wortel – Rosa Parks/Bridges Elementary School
David Wuolu – College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University

North Dakota’s MEIR Task Force members and funding partners:

- Cynthia Clairmont-Schmidt – North Dakota State Library: funding partner
- Mary Drewes – University of North Dakota
- Carolyn Harvey – North Dakota State University
- Jane LaPlante – Minot State University
- Mary Soucie – North Dakota State Library: funding partner
- Eric Stroshane – North Dakota State Library
- Tony Stukel – ODIN: funding partner

South Dakota’s MEIR Task Force members and funding partners:

- Daria Bossman – South Dakota State Library: funding partner
- Lisa Brunick – Augustana College
- Julie Erickson – South Dakota State Library
- Steve Johnson – University of South Dakota
- Mary Kraljic – South Dakota State University
- Warren Wilson – SDLN: funding partner

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Parker, Minitex, m-park1@umn.edu, 800-462-5348, or 612-624-1024.

Back to July 2014

Pedal Power

Jennifer Hootman

We’ve all heard about bookmobiles and the wonderful services they provide. But what about putting pedal power to library services? Several libraries across the U.S. (including Ohio’s Cleveland Heights-University
Heights Public Library, Arizona’s Pima County Public Library, Colorado’s Denver Public Library, and Washington’s Seattle Public Library) have implemented a Book Bike outreach service. Over the last two years this innovative service has gained some ground and popularity. Specific services provided by Book Bike programs vary among libraries but include a wide variety ranging from circulating books, providing wireless hotspots, and assisting with research, ebook downloads, and library card sign-ups. How about Minnesota? With active biking enthusiasts and communities, this seems like an outreach program well suited for the state. You can learn more about these programs in the June edition of American Libraries.
Mobile Messaging Usage Jumps in 2013

Carla Pfahl

A recent article on emarketer.com, “What’s Up with the US? (Not WhatsApp—Yet),” notes the increased use of mobile messaging applications worldwide. Instant messaging has migrated away from the desktop or web-based application to the mobile appisphere. Some surprising bits of information from this article, for me, were:

- Russia is considered a “developing country” – perhaps in the mobile smartphone/app market.
- The U.S. is near the bottom of developed countries that use mobile messaging apps.
- Google Hangouts is not finding any traction in the U.S. mobile messaging market.
- Facebook Messenger was the leading app downloaded by Android users.
- What’s up with Spain?

While the U.S. is at the bottom of the developed countries for mobile messaging app usage, the report does highlight that worldwide usage has jumped 316% in the past year. With this huge increase there are a lot of products out there and, as the report indicates, there is no clear front-runner in the market yet. Perhaps people are trying out a few different apps to see which one they like best while, at the same time, interest from new consumers is starting to take hold.

In the library environment there are several different text messaging products being used, including Mosio, LibraryH3lp, Springshare, Twillio, and Pidgin. They are computer-to-device products that support SMS. However, the mobile messaging apps now in the marketplace are like SMS+. They offer a wide range of options such as video calls, group chats, multimedia functions, gaming and much more. This could open the door to more flexible tools for online patron services in the years to come. Although there may be a 140 (-/+1) character limit for text messages, a librarian could supplement a response to a question by using one of these new apps – perhaps with a quick tutorial or screenshot instead of sending multiple messages to a patron. It will be worth watching to see if any of the current library text messaging products adapts to these new mobile messaging apps or if new products will evolve within this quickly rising market.

Back to July 2014

Can Filtering Do More Harm than Good?
Beth Staats

According to an ALA report released in June, schools and libraries are filtering a lot more than what is actually required by CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). In order to receive certain federal funding, schools and libraries are required to use Internet filtering software but many of them could actually be over-filtering. “Over-filtering blocks access to legitimate educational resources, and consequently reduces access to information and learning opportunities for students,” said Barbara Stripling, ALA President. It seems that Internet filtering requirements have not evolved to include the rise of “online collaborative tools and social networks that allow online students to both consume and produce content.”

According to the report, filtering harms poor children the most. Since these are the kids that depend most on school and library computers, most of their computer time is spent highly filtered. The report also states that over-filtering restricts students from “learning key digital readiness skills” which they will be using the rest of their lives. In his article, “Fight the fight, but pick filtering battles carefully in K12,” Christopher Harris hits the nail on the head when he states that “the challenge is being confident enough in students' ethics and digital literacy to stop with the most basic level of filtering.” Fencing Out Knowledge, the ALA report on over-filtering, recommends that school and library leaders raise awareness of the consequences of over-filtering in the K12 arena.

Back to July 2014

Digital Scholarship Support Materials

Matt Lee

Scholarly pursuits, at both the secondary and post-secondary levels, are increasingly done digitally. Videos, online gaming, and digital storytelling are examples of new types of outputs created by students as they learn how to explore and report on the world. They are also used by teachers to help students through the learning process.
Seneca College in Ontario is in the early phases of developing a digital literacies program. And they've put together an excellent source to help students and faculty create digital media. The Seneca Sandbox contains online modules on video creation, animated videos, digital storytelling, infographics, learning games, and more. And they've also put together contextualizing content for students on digital citizenship and for faculty on teaching with digital media.

Investigate the site for what it might teach you about creating digital media for your students, and for ideas on teaching students how best to pursue digital scholarship.

Back to July 2014

Toronto Library Offers Book Printing

Beth Staats

Toronto Reference Library is one of the first libraries to offer a book printing machine at its Digital Innovations Hub. They expect there to be a lot of demand for this technology. New and up-and-coming authors can print up to 10 copies of a 150 page book for $145. That's about $15 per book and significantly less than most book printers charge. You can actually watch the book being made including the cover and pages being trimmed and glued together. Now patrons can self-publish and completely remove the fear of being rejected by publishers!

Back to July 2014
K-12 Technology Survey Results

Matt Lee

Earlier this spring we asked K-12 media and technology folks to take part in an informal survey on iPads, technology, and ELM access in their schools. Thank you to the 100 folks who provided feedback.

In the near term, the survey helped us to identify and reach out to Minnesota schools where automatic authentication via the ELM portal was not happening on iPads. Prior to the survey, we had heard of a few of these instances; the survey helped us identify more. If you have experienced difficulty using the ELM portal on institutional iPads, especially while on your institution's wifi, please send a note to us at mtxref@umn.edu. We'll get it fixed.

31% of respondents to the survey indicated that their schools have already implemented a 1:1 tablet computer program. 55% of respondents said that their schools have tablet computer carts available for classroom use. Many respondents indicated that Chromebooks and iPads were likely to be deployed in their schools in the next 1-5 years. This information, along with the technology challenges and use case scenarios respondents shared, will help us to plan outreach and support for ELM to schools in the longer term. Thank you again for helping to provide that direction.
QuestionPoint Training Opportunities from OCLC

*Carla Pfahl*

OCLC is offering several webinar training sessions in July for QuestionPoint subscribers. The sessions are free and cover a variety of different aspects (Administrator sessions and Librarian sessions). These sessions are conducted by OCLC trainers and training partner Amigos and are designed to help QuestionPoint librarians refresh or maintain skills and ensure effective use of OCLC subscription services.

You will need to register at the training portal in order to attend any of the classes, but registration and the courses themselves are free. To see the list of classes, go to

http://referencenotes.minitex.umn.edu/category/july-2014/
To register:

1. Click on the course name, then scroll to the Scheduled Offerings section and click on the link by the date of the course.

2. Check the time of the course on the right side of the screen to make certain it fits your availability. If so, click the green Register to Attend button.

3. On the WebEx page that displays, click the green Register to Attend link and complete the form that is displayed. Be certain to allow receipt of email from messenger@webex.com so your confirmation is not caught by a spam filter.

This series of classes begins on July 15, 2014 for Administrator sessions and July 21, 2014 for Librarian sessions, so register soon!

Back to July 2014

**MEMO Is Now ITEM**

On July 1st the *Minneapolis Educational Media Organization* (MEMO) relaunched as *Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota* (ITEM). Check out the ITEM website at [http://memotech.ning.com/](http://memotech.ning.com/). And while you’re there, register for the ITEM Annual Conference on October 2-4 in St. Cloud.

Back to July 2014
Going Beyond Google

Jennifer Hootman

Recently, ALA's American Libraries Live host, Dan Freeman, moderated a panel of four on the topic of “Going Beyond Google.”

Panelists Joanna Burkhardt, Professor and Head Librarian at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Branch Libraries in Providence and Narragansett; Nikki Krysak, Head of Instructional Services, Norwich University in Vermont; John McCullough, Product Manager, Discovery, OCLC; and Beth McDonough, Research and Instruction Librarian, Western Carolina University tackled the seemingly universal question, “Why do people need us when they have Google and other public search tools?”

If you didn't already get a chance to catch this particular episode live, then the archive is definitely worth an hour of your time. Perhaps you've struggled with the same question, or maybe those you serve have challenged you with a “Google vs. the Library” debate. These panelists provide food for thought and well-articulated responses to the question, countering that “Google vs. the Library” is a false dichotomy. Rather than taking an “either/or” perspective, panelists deconstruct the question and offer insights into exploiting Google and other search engines as a tool to increase the discoverability and use of library collections. Additionally, panelists address ways in which library staff bring value to information seeking and learning experiences as well as the physical and digital collections. The episode concludes with a discussion on the importance of quantitative and qualitative evidence of the library's value.

The panel discussion is certainly an enriching professional development opportunity but may also be an effective discussion starter for high school and college classrooms.

Back to July 2014

Tips for Running Effective Meetings: InfoGraphic

http://referencenotes.minitex.umn.edu/category/july-2014/
Carla Pfahl

A recent Infographic caught my eye from visual.ly, a marketing website that caters to producing creative visual content. The Infographic, “The Ugly Truth About Meetings,” creates a nice visual display combining data from several sources about what makes a meeting ineffective and ways to run an effective meeting. The number one killer of meetings is multitasking. Checking email and doing things completely unrelated to work during a meeting was admitted by 92% of survey respondents. Other key killers of meeting effectiveness were remote participants not being engaged and lack of planning and structure for the meeting.

Tips for keeping meetings relevant and effective are to schedule shorter meetings, set clear expectations, send materials in advance, avoid monologues, and other points (see the infographic for full listing). When it came to remote participants, the sources found that 57% of people participating via a phone call were not engaged and were multitasking during the meeting as compared to only 4% of people participating via video calls. Video calls are more beneficial because they improve engagement, enhance the decision making process, and increase team productivity.
MEETINGS ARE MEANT TO BE AN ENGINE OF PRODUCTIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE.

But, what’s meant to be an efficient way for people to get together to discuss ideas, debate issues, overcome obstacles and drive outcomes, often doesn’t turn out like that at all. The truth is that many meetings end up being about as valuable as a Snapchat post -- people talk, the ideas quickly disappear into the ether with no outcomes or follow up.

WHAT'S THE HARM IN UNPRODUCTIVE MEETINGS?

▶ IT WASTES MONEY:
  More than $37 BILLION per year is spent on unproductive meetings.

▶ IT WASTES TIME:
  There are 25 MILLION meetings per day in the U.S.

▶ IT WASTES YOUR ORGANIZATION'S TIME:
  15% of an organization's COLLECTIVE TIME is spent in meetings, a percentage that has increased every year since 2008.

  Middle managers spend 35% OF THEIR TIME in meetings.
  Upper management spends 50% OF THEIR TIME in meetings.
  People spend up to 4 HOURS PER WEEK preparing for status update meetings.

YOU SPEND ALL THAT TIME AND MONEY BUT...

Most meetings are UNPRODUCTIVE.

In fact, executives consider more than 67% of meetings to be failures.

WHAT'S CAUSING UNPRODUCTIVE MEETINGS?
1. MULTITASKING

92% of survey respondents confessed to multitasking during meetings

41% admitted to multitasking “often” or “all the time”

69% admitted to checking email

49% admitted to doing other, unrelated work

2. REMOTE PARTICIPANTS AREN’T ENGAGED

It can be hard for remote participants to follow along, stay engaged and feel like they can contribute.

In fact, 80% of messages we receive come from BODY LANGUAGE

- something that is hard to pick up on when you’re on the phone.

3. LACK OF PLANNING AND STRUCTURE

Facilitating effective meetings is a skill that can be learned and honed. Considering the amount of time we spend in meetings, more companies should invest in improving meeting effectiveness.

TIPS FOR BETTER MEETINGS:

- Schedule shorter meetings - 30 minutes max
- Set clear expectations - include in preparation materials
- Send materials in advance - use time for discussion
- Start and end on time - respect people's time
- Avoid monologues - engage participants
- Stay focused - move tangents to another discussion, email and enterprise social network
- Capture key points and action items
THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE SCHEDULING YOUR NEXT MEETING:

1. Is a meeting NECESSARY? Explore options requiring less time from co-workers.
2. Who really NEEDS TO BE THERE Be clear about required vs. optional participants.
3. What can I do to ensure it is focused and interactive? Come up with a clear AGENDA. SEND MATERIALS in advance, and capture action items.

VIDEO COLLABORATION CAN IMPROVE MEETING EFFECTIVENESS

REDUCE MULTITASKING
People less likely to multitask on video calls 4% vs phone calls 57%

KEY BENEFITS OF VIDEO CALLS:

✓ Improve focus and engagement
✓ Enhance decision making
✓ Increase team productivity

SOURCES:
http://www.industryweek.com/blog/youre-wasting-your-time-and-650-billion-dollars
http://www.corin.com/id/88999453
September 2013 Ayers Report by Career Partners International
http://www.corin.com/id/846899453
HBR, Your Scrumant Resource, May 2014
Meeting Behavior Survey, SurveyMonkey 2013
http://www.torreyis.org/sgl/gp/cityofeffective_meetings#.U3dC-qJMDk

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One-Second Poll: The Value in a Library Conference

ALA is just behind us. What provides the most value to you in a library conference, ALA or otherwise?
Choose one:

- Keynote presentations
- Session presentations
- Professional networking
- Committee work, meetings, or other service to the profession
- Socializing
- Other: 

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