

**Northern Lights Library Network
Director's Report
March 19, 2022
Kathy B. Enger, Executive Director**

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) Refresher and Ebooks MN Tour of new Platform. On January 4th, Linda Mork from Minitex presented new resources and database features on ELM; on January 6th, Beth Staats from Minitex gave librarians a tour of Ebooks MN new MackinVIA platform via Zoom meetings. NLLN invited the presentations where altogether over 20 librarians from the region attended.

Tri-College Linked Data Workshop. The Tri-College libraries sponsored and presented the virtual workshop, *Linked Data in Libraries: The Big Picture and Application in Libraries*, which was held over two days, February 1 and 2. NLLN supported the event.

Building Confidence in the Selection of Culturally Authentic Native American Books. On February 22 and 23, NLLN invited Cassy LEEPOT from Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe) and State Library Services to present a one-hour informational workshop on selecting culturally authentic books and resources depicting Native Americans. The workshop walked participants through background information on the topic, provided examples and tools that helped build confidence in selecting resources, and left time for questions and discussion. A special focus on resources depicting Minnesota tribal nations and surrounding communities was presented. 57 librarians, teachers, and collection managers from around the state attended.

Creating Inclusive Spaces within Libraries Tri-College Workshop. Along with the Tri-College and other organizations, NLLN is sponsoring a four-hour workshop over two days, March 28 and March 30, to support inclusion efforts in libraries. The deadline for registration was March 11th.

Organizing Children's Books. Laurie Villwock, media specialist at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School and NLLN Governing Board member, will share how she rearranged picture books in her library from Accelerated Reading classification to a subject classification (all-the-while, engaging her students in the process). The process will be demonstrated in two Zoom presentations. In the first session on March 28th, Laurie will discuss the physical process of relabeling and moving the book. The second session on March 30th, will show us the changes she made to Destiny by creating a new Visual Search, which only searches the picture book section in the online catalog. Both sessions are at 4 p.m.

eAudio Books for Kitchigami Regional Library System. Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is again funding \$5,000 to the Kitchigami Regional Library System to support their eAudio book collection.

Scholarships. Scholarships for continuing education are recurring. One notable scholarship went to Pam Werre, Director of the MSUM Livingston Lord Library, to attend the 14th Regional International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Conference in Nashville March 4 - 6. Pam was able to attend the conference, "The Music of Words" due to funding from Northern Lights Library Network. IBBY is "a non-profit organization which represents an international

network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together” (<https://www.ibby.org/>).

College & Research Libraries. Executive Director, Kathy Enger, continues to review articles for College & Research Libraries.

Thomas & Adrienne Bahr (TAB) Center for the Humanities. Executive Director, Kathy Enger, is serving on the founding board of the Thomas & Adrienne Bahr (TAB) Center for the Humanities at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM). MSUM received an endowment of 4.3 million dollars from alumnus Thomas Peter von Bahr, who named the donation in honor of his parents. The Center will examine ways we come to understand our world through the arts, humanities, and technology. TAB will develop scholarships in the humanities and enhance programming for the humanities in the region with a focus on finding solutions, community engagement, and life long learning.

CareerForce Corner Partnerships. From an email from Cassy Leeport, Grand Portage Ojibwe, and Library Development and American Rescue Plan Program Specialist, State Library Services: “CareerForce Corner is a two-part opportunity for your library to enhance its workforce programming: physical resources and local connections. Libraries will have the option to receive a physical kit of resources from CareerForce. This will include brochures, flyers, and promotional items like pens, post-its, and USB drives. Libraries can also choose to be connected with their local Job Service Teams via a virtual meet-up to discuss options for collaboration. Libraries tend to be the first stop for many community members seeking help or information. While this is great, libraries also have the unique ability to be a place of trust in assisting our community members in finding resources outside the scope of library services. By connecting with your local CareerForce or job center, libraries can build systems of community support to help Minnesotans develop workforce skills and find employment. The library CareerForce Corner may be a community member’s first stop on their workforce journey, but through community partnerships, it does not need to be their only stop. For information, contact Cassy Leeport at: cassy.leeport@state.mn.us; 651-582-8467. Please pass this information on to your libraries. A link to Cassy’s presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzf8TbHPxe4>