

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report Oct 18, 2008

Meetings/Activities

October

Oct 18 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes
Oct 19-23 Internet Librarian Conference, Monterey, CA
Oct 28 Meeting with Lori Thompson re: evaluation of NSLC E2T2 grant
Oct 30 Received books nominated for Mn Book Awards – Autobiography/biography
Oct 30 Review of North Star Library Consortium activities and implementation

November

Nov 4 Meeting with Lina Belar regarding NSLC, LSTA, and other topics, Detroit Lakes
Nov 4 ELECTION DAY !!
Nov 5 Meeting with multitype directors regarding More Things on a Stick, via OPAL Conferencing software
Nov 5 Meeting with Patricia Post, CMLE, in St Cloud regarding staff dev/E2T2
Nov 6-14 Vacation time: visiting daughter and new son-in-law in sunny Costa Rica
Nov 19-21 MN Library Association Conference in Bloomington.
Nov 27-28 NLLN Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Dec 1 Meeting with Lori Thompson to review E2T2 evaluation surveys, plan in-depth survey of NSLC members use of Destiny.
Dec 9-10 Destiny users training for 14 new member libraries, Moorhead
Dec 9 Participation in MaintainIT webinar regarding laptop computer labs.
Dec 12 Minitex Policy Advisory Council, U of M, Andersen Library, Minneapolis
Dec 13 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes

Continuing Education

- **MEMO Conference:** the multitype systems provided a very popular Internet Café at the MEMO Conference in addition to a very well attended panel presentation on how participants in the *23 Things on a Stick* project are using these tools in their professional, as well as personal, lives.
- **Mn Library Association Conference:** Minnesota multitype systems sponsored the opening keynote speaker at the Conference: Tim Spaulding, creator of the very popular and fast-growing “LibraryThing” project. It was a treat to have him speak. The multitype systems provided a great panel presentation on the uses and benefits of things gained from the 23 Things on a Stick project. Erika Rux was one of the presenters and did a great job. The multitypes also hosted an all-conference “Party on a Stick” to celebrate the project, promote face-to-face social networking, and to give out prizes. All these events were well-received and gave high visibility to the work of the multitype library systems.
- **Destiny Training:** We provided the 2-day Destiny end-user training for the 14 newest libraries to join the North Star Library Consortium. The training was held in the Region 1

training lab and we had representatives from St Cloud, Wheaton, Long Prairie, Grey Eagle, Bagley, Red Lake, and East Grand Forks – a very wide geographical distribution.

- **Laptop Labs – Creating, Maintaining, and Using Them:** Although we did not directly sponsor this webinar provided by MaintainIT, it was created at my request and several of the multitype directors were able to participate. Nationwide there were about 70 registered for this time of sharing and it provided some great information, as well as connections, about creating and using a laptop lab. I found it very beneficial.
- **More Things on a Stick:** The multitype systems are working jointly to present this new personal learning project in early January. It will continue in the same spirit of last year's 23 Things on a Stick project and we anticipate similar participation. Designing and implementing this project is a big task. Fortunately we have multitype directors who are engaged in developing this project and I, for one, love working on this kind of project. I feel this project allows everyone to come in contact with a carefully selected set of new tools and to receive support while learning how to use them.
- **CE Planning:** Work continues on planning for the Spotlight on Books conference to be held April 3-4, 2009, at Sugar Lake Lodge. Work also continues on the January 25-26 NSLC/E2T2 conference, "Meet Your Destiny" at Arrowwood Conference Center. Other staff development and continuing education events are scheduled for the New Year – and it keeps us busy trying to keep it all planned, promoted, and presented.

Resource Sharing

- ❖ **North Star Library Consortium (NSLC):** We are now up to 125 member libraries in the Consortium. The next round of new members will be added in the summer of 2009. We have 1.3 million copy records, 68,000 users, and have done more than 500,000 circulation transactions since the beginning of Sept.
- ❖ **Destiny 9.0:** A new version of the software will be installed in December, which will mean that we will have new training demands. We hope our January event will be an opportunity to share skills among the membership. Twice-yearly updates to the software is both a blessing and a burden.
- ❖ **Access Pennsylvania:** We have begun using this as an additional Z39.50 resource for accessing cataloging records for the North Star Library Consortium members. Perhaps it will fill a gap for those who do not have access to CatExpress.
- ❖ **Continuing Education Scholarship applications:** These are going well this year, though not quite as briskly as last year when we had several major events. These awards are increasingly important as library travel and staff development budgets continue to decline.
- ❖ **Professional Engagement Awards:** These awards are now available and I anticipate that those professionals in our region who are, or would like to be, engaged in on-going professional activities that support libraries, will be interested in these funds. Again, they are increasingly important as other budgets decline and as a new generation of professionals step forward.

Communication: As the universe of possibilities for communicating and networking increases, I feel more and more fragmented (and a little conflicted) about how the NLLN office (i.e., me!) can best communicate with the library staff of the region, the board, our colleagues in the larger library world, and the world of libraries and technology in general. Every week, it seems, I am exploring and investigating, and implementing new communication tools that all link together to share information within the world of libraries. I use the NLLN webpage, blog, OPAL conferencing software, Twitter, Facebook, GoogleChat, google calendars, WebJunction, FriendFeed, Picasaweb, LinkedIn, Skype (including video), NING, Flickr, Delicious, Constant Contact, LibraryThing – and probably others – in some relationship to NLLN, library work, and the profession. It's a changing, shifting world of communication possibilities. What is effective? What is appropriate? How much time is spent exploring, learning, sharing these tools? How effective are they as communication tools? What is neglected? I'm struggling a little bit with how to balance all this and provide effective communication from NLLN.

Other: As a result of the changing and worsening economic climate, I believe we may see nearly constant, and often uncertain, change/upheavals to the circumstances of our organization in the coming weeks and months. We will need to be aware of these forces, their effect on NLLN, and reflect on how best to respond to them.

In the remaining 3 meetings of this fiscal year (Feb/Apr/June) I believe we should devote serious attention to how we will respond to the changes we face while remaining faithful to our vision, mission, and goals. I hope we will be able to discuss how best to conduct our meetings/board communication to meet these changing circumstances.

**Ruth Solie
Dec 13, 2008**