

Northern Lights Library Network

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
to the Governing Board

October 16, 2004

Meetings/Activities/Travel

8/24 Meeting with Bob Wheeler, Region I, regarding E2T2 grant;
Conference call with Follett regarding contract negotiations for North Star
Project.

9/2-17 Trip to Argentina – it was a wonderful, interesting, and refreshing trip!

9/21 MLA Legislative Committee meeting, Pelican Rapids, ITV.

9/22 North Star Library Consortium Planning Committee meeting, NL Office.

9/23 Demonstration of video-streaming software and associated products.

9/24 Contract negotiations between Region I/NLLN and Follett regarding
Destiny product, licenses, maintenance agreements.

9/24 ALA Teleconference on Copyright (video streamed to desktop)

9/27 Contract negotiations between Region I/NLLN and Follett ... continue.

9/28 Distribution of NCAP equipment from Townsite Center office in
Moorhead.
Staff development planning meeting for E2T2 grant, Moorhead.

9/30 Council of Cooperating Libraries (multitype directors) strategic planning
meeting, St Cloud.

10/1-2 MEMO Fall Conference, St Cloud.

10/4 Meeting with Lori Thompson re: evaluation design for E2T2 grant.

10/6-8 MLA Fall Conference, Duluth.

10/11 NW-LINKS Governance Council, Fergus Falls.
Meeting with Bob Wheeler, Region I, regarding Follett contract.

10/12 Ready4K Board of Directors, St Paul.

10/12, 14 Local candidate forums, Detroit Lakes.

10/16 NLLN Governing Board, Detroit Lakes.

1. North Star Library Consortium (NSLC)

- Official beginning of the Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) grant is Sept 15, 2004, to be completed by Dec 15, 2005. Region I is fiscal agent and grant recipient; project is a partnership between Region I and NLLN to provide an automation system for school and special libraries in the NLLN region.
- Contract negotiations with Follett undertaken in earnest during Sept/Oct regarding Destiny licensing for 90 sites, and ongoing maintenance/support costs.

- NSLC Planning committee met to outline scope of the project and terms of the grant.
- I met with Lori Thompson to design the evaluation tools/process for the E2T2 grant and general design of the non-Follett staff development pieces.
- Met with Gay Galles, Brook Berg, and others to begin planning the staff development/training portions of the grant, particularly for events taking place in conjunction with the MEMO Midwinter Conference, NLLN Annual Meeting, Spotlight on Books, and the MEMO Leadership Conference.
- Deb Keena continued to build the NSLC database and worked with LoAnn Raftveold at Region I to gather information about school districts in the NLLN region.

This is an immense project and will consume a very large amount of staff time in the NLLN Office. The grant includes funds for grant administration and for certain personnel, such as the evaluator. We will consider the need for additional staff, perhaps contract staff for this project and/or for other NLLN work, as well as increasing Deb's hours to cover the additional time required for training, project database work, and coordination.

2. Continuing Education

- 5 NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships have been awarded since July 1.
- Publicized satellite downlink for the ALA national teleconference on Copyright; and publicized availability of teleconference via archived video-streaming to desktop computers.
- Presentation/displays at MEMO Conference, St Cloud.
- Presentations/NLLN display at MLA Conference, Duluth.
- Planning, publicizing, and preparing for school media workshop at NW Service Cooperative, Oct 18.
- Coordinating and providing ELM training events in the NLLN region.
- Arranging for the "Library Disaster Planning Workshop" to be presented in the NLLN region.
- Planning for the Spotlight on Books Conference, particularly the Friday afternoon workshop on pre-adolescent development and reading.

- Planning for the MEMO Midwinter Conference, Alexandria (Feb 6-7).
- Planning for a workshop and author in conjunction with the NLLN Annual meeting. (April 30).
- Posting NLLN Continuing Education events on the NLLN CE page, the NLLN Events Calendar, in the NLLN Newsletter, and on the NLLN listserv.
- Publicizing and promoting continuing education opportunities of interest to the NLLN membership that are provided by other libraries and agencies.
- Publicizing and promoting the NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Program.
- Make equipment such LCD projectors available to member libraries for programming and continuing education events

3.Communication

Newsletter –

- print and electronic format, via NLLN webpage, are provided to NLLN members on an approximately monthly basis (10/year). This continues to receive very positive feedback from the membership.
- Looking into software for an electronic version of the newsletter to make it available electronically by subscription.

Listserv –

- was temporarily down while LARL made its migration to new equipment and while I was gone. It is now back up and is extremely useful for quickly transmitting information broadly across the region.

Blog –

- Libraries, Literacy, and Kids blog continues to be a source of timely information about early education and libraries.
- This blog was featured in 2 MLA programs and is being used by a very wide range of people within and outside the NLLN region.

Webpage –

- Continues to grow and be updated all the time; never quite enough time to keep it completely current.

- A log of activity related to the webpage shows how often it is used and which parts of it are most frequently visited. ELM databases, catalogs, events calendar, and the blog are the most frequently used.

Mailings –

- NLLN did the distribution of publicity for the Church Library Workshop to be held at Concordia College, Oct 30. Over 1000 churches were included in the special mailing, in addition to a full page notice in the NLLN Newsletter.

E-mail/Phone-

- These continue to be the most effective means of one-on-one communication and for consulting.

4. Early Childhood Literacy and Libraries-

- Promotion of the Early Childhood Caucus Forums in the NLLN region.
- Maintaining the Libraries, Literacy, and Kids blog; presenting it at conferences.
- Working with the Children's and Young People's Section of MLA regarding the Every Child Ready to Read @ your library program.
- Working with the Mn Initiative Funds and the communities included in their Early Childhood Initiative.
- Working with the regional public library systems to schedule a planning meeting for an NLLN initiative related to Every Child Ready to Read @ your library.