

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report October 21, 2006

Meetings/Activities

August

8/22 White Earth Cultural Center/Museum meeting, Mahnomen
8/23-24 Destiny training for new sites, Moorhead
8/25 Destiny training: Back to School Special, Detroit Lakes
8/28-30 Eide Bailly audit process – field work, Detroit Lakes
8/31 Meeting with Patty Nunn re: Oct Newsletter, Detroit Lakes

September

9/1 Met with Ann Treacy Information, Inc. regarding webpage development (phone)
9/5 MLA/MEMO Legislative committee meeting developing literacy plank (ITV)
9/6 White Earth Even Start Program meeting, White Earth
9/8 MINITEX Policy Advisory Council, Andersen Library, UofM, Minneapolis
9/8 Meeting with Ann Treacy regarding webpage, St Paul
9/12 Ready4K Board meeting, St Paul
9/12 MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meeting, St Paul
9/13 Meeting with Cyndi Anderson regarding Readmobile program planning
9/18 Meeting with Patty Nunn, communication consultant, Detroit Lakes
9/18 Meeting with Cyndi Anderson, White Earth Child Care Programs, White
Earth Early Childhood Initiative – planning meeting, Detroit Lakes
9/19 White Earth Early Childhood Initiative monthly meeting, White Earth
9/19 White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile planning meeting, White Earth
9/20 Barnesville School Library meeting, Barnesville
9/21 Readmobile project planning meeting, NLLN Office, Detroit Lakes
9/27-29 Mn Library Association Conference, St Cloud

October

10/10 Meeting the MLA/CYP/R4K to develop talking points for library platform
10/11 Meeting with Ann Treacy on webpage development, St Paul
10/12 Mn Multitype Library Directors Meeting, Bloomington
10/13-14 MEMO Fall Conference, Bloomington
10/16 Conference call regarding Family Center Libraries (Hennepin Co and Co
of Los Angeles)
10/16 Presentation to Barnesville School Board regarding school media centers
10/20 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes

North Star Library Consortium

- Follett Software Corp has purchased the Sagebrush Corporation, Follett's primary competition in the supply and support of school library automation systems. This will have a significant impact (positive) on the North Star Library Consortium and will increase the number of **Destiny** users in Minnesota.
- We have issued a "last call" for libraries to join the Consortium under the terms of the grant agreement and the response has been very good. As of this date we have 8 new schools that have signed a letter of understanding and several special libraries that indicated an interest in joining.
- We have purchased 90 **Destiny** licenses and anticipate that we will use nearly all of them by the end of this calendar year.
- One final 2-day training for new sites will take place in December or early January depending on the schedule to migrate all new members to **Destiny** by that date.
- We will provide a one day "Quick Fix" training in November for new staff members in existing sites. There has been considerable staff turnover in the schools which creates training needs.
- CatExpress subscriptions for Consortium members has been paid for the 2005-2006 school year out of E2T2 grant funds. We continue to add new subscribers.
- We are exploring ways to incorporate the ELM resources into the **Destiny** home pages for each site and are using the ELM portal template in several pilot sites.
- A **Destiny** Users group will be planned for the MEMO Midwinter Conference as well as a North Star Library Consortium users group.
- A "Nuts & Bolts" workshop for school and small libraries will be planned for Feb/March.

Early Childhood Education and Libraries

- Ready4K Board and Staff have developed a comprehensive school readiness legislative agenda for the 2007 MN legislative session and are presently working on developing legislation to implement the proposals. This is called the "**Get Minnesota Ready for K!**" initiative.
- A small group representing the Mn Library Association has met with R4K to specifically identify where libraries fit in the R4K legislative agenda and proposed legislation.
- The Ready4K Board has acknowledged libraries as key partners in school readiness preparation.
- The Minnesota Library Association/MEMO memberships have adopted a plank on their legislative platform that supports "Get Minnesota Ready for K!" initiative.
- I have worked with an MLA group and R4K to develop "talking points" in support of this plank.
- The White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile did not receive funding from the Minnesota Early Learning Fund. NLLN, with the assistance of Cyndi Anderson, consultant, has helped the White Earth Early Childhood programs re-design their initial implementation process for rolling out the Readmobile's services and to plan for growth of the services and the partnerships.
- There are continued training and set-up needs for the Readmobile staff; I have been actively involved in helping with this.
- Discussion with the many White Earth partners, and potential partners, regarding library services and pre-school children continues. It is complicated, but exciting. There are several new initiatives being undertaken and each would like the benefit of library or Readmobile services.
- The Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Minnesota Library (LSTA grant) project completed the initial phase of the grant and is now preparing for the follow up surveys/evaluation/report that will take place in the coming months..

- At the MLA/CYP meeting in Sept, the next stage of this work, under the “Ready4K at your Minnesota Library” logo, was developed. See the Mn Library Association webpage for resources and details.

Continuing Education

- We received a number of Scholarship applications for both the MEMO and the MLA Fall Membership Conferences. We will look forward to receiving their reports.
- We also funded participation in a 2-day cataloging workshop provided by MINITEX, and participation in ALA Midwinter Conference in January.
- There has been some confusion about the application process which resulted in uncertainty about
- We have scheduled the 7 teleconferences available from the College of DuPage. These are presented as a downlink site at MSU-M in cooperation with the tri-college libraries as well as via web-streaming, and VHS tapes. The first of these will be Oct 27 and will concern new technologies. Registrations are good for this.
- We have scheduled a 2-day **Destiny** training for new members of the North Star Library Consortium in December.
- We will schedule a one-day (Nov 17) **Destiny** training for new staff in existing staff
- The Spotlight on Books Conference is nearly finalized and information was distributed at MEMO and MLA Conferences.
- Additional staff development and continuing education events are in the planning stages, including working with State Library Services regarding the Rural Library Sustainability workshops, and WebJunction; Minitex regarding ELM resources and the MN Digital Library , and the Minnesota Coalition for Intellectual Freedom regarding challenges in libraries.
- I will be working with the new MN Book Award program. This program has recently been taken under the umbrella of the St Paul Friends of the Library. Formerly it was a program of the Mn Humanities Commission.

Communication

- Patty Nunn has worked with me on the monthly NLLN Newsletter, the webpage re-design work, and on a publicity piece that highlights the work of NLLN. Although this did not turn out quite as anticipated, it has been a valuable undertaking and produced some good results.
- Monthly Newsletter in print and electronic format have gotten back on track. The electronic version (PDF) has been popular with many people, but only a few have declined the print version.
- The Calendar of Events on the NLLN website has been updated regularly.
- Considerable amount of time and work has gone into the re-design of the NLLN website. So far we have looked primarily at the format and navigation of the website, with the goal of creating a consistent look, logical arrangement, and easy navigation. Next steps include clean up and updating of content, incorporation of a photogallery and slide show, a new blog, and a domain name for the North Star Library Consortium in lieu of an IP address only.
- A new library directory for the state of Minnesota has been established on the Mn Dept of Education website. We are checking, and updating, the information for libraries in the NLLN region and have put a link to this site on the NLLN webpage.
- NLLN is adding the ELM portal template to the NLLN webpage.

Ruth Solie
October 21, 2006