

Northern Lights Library Network

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

To the Governing Board

August 21, 2004

Meetings/Activities/Travel

- 6/19 NLLN Governing Board, Detroit Lakes
- 6/21,22,23,24 Meetings with Lori Thompson/Cyndi Anderson/Bob Wheeler regarding E2T2 Grant
- 6/25 Enhancing Education through Technology (E2T2) grant submitted in partnership with Region I for \$500,000 for North Star Library Consortium Project.
- 7/6-7 Council of Cooperating Libraries (Multitype system directors' meeting), Mankato
- 7/12 Meeting with White Earth Tribal Cultural Center planning group, Mahnommen.
- 7/13 Ready4K Board Meeting, St Paul  
Virtual Reference forum, Roseville
- 7/15 Demonstration of new Destiny software, Follett – Virtual tour
- 7/20 MLA Legislative Committee, Pelican Rapids (ITV)
- 7/21-23 MEMO Leadership Conference
- 8/4-6 MOTSE Cataloging Basics Workshop, Detroit Lakes
- 8/9-17 VACATION – Montana
- 8/21 NLLN Governing Board Meeting

July is a month where the office finalizes the previous fiscal year, reconsiders office procedures, does housekeeping and office organization for the new year, and begins to plan the work of the coming year in detail.

**I. Continuing Education Activities:**

1. Preliminary planning is being done for the CE activities of the coming year, including a Church Library workshop with Concordia College, a disaster planning workshop with Metronet/metro libraries, a trustees/board workshop with MLA Trustees division, a community/school Friends workshop, MEMO Midwinter conference programming and training related to the PUMP It Up! Survey results, including training on new ELM resources.

2. MEMO Leadership Conference featured ways that school media specialists positively affect student achievement. This was excellent and was well-attended by representatives from the NLLN region.
3. The proposed Information Technology Literacy Standards for Minnesota were distributed and discussed at the MEMO Leadership Conference. These are of great interest to all media specialists and we will be planning on doing staff development programs related to this important topic in the coming year.
4. The MOTSE Basic Cataloging course – 3 days! – was held in Detroit Lakes and 14 people were enrolled. It was thorough, intense, and very well done. Stephen Hearn from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, was the workshop leader and did an excellent job.
5. Finalized the 2005 Spotlight on Books featured authors contracts, dates, and fees. Have begun to finalize the other portions of that Conference and have begun distributing new promotional materials.

## **II. Early Childhood Education/Emergent Literacy**

1. Worked with the MLA/CYP committee that has been planning a statewide “Every Child Ready to Read @ your library” training campaign for public library staff. Although the LSTA grant application was unsuccessful for this year, discussions continue with Suzanne Miller, State Librarian, about alternative funding strategies.
2. Working with the Minnesota Initiative Funds (West Central and Northwest) to explore the possibility of doing Every Child Ready to Read@ your library training in the NLLN region. Lori Thompson, a literacy trainer and experienced community development worker, has been working with me to explore funding, activities, and partnerships.
3. Working with the Ready4K Board and its multi-pronged efforts in support of early literacy. Several areas of interest to us include: the Minnesota School Readiness Business Advisory Council (MSRBAC), the public policy/legislative initiatives related to school readiness, and the grassroots organizing activities in support of issues related to young children and early education. Several key events are scheduled for the NLLN region.
4. Maintenance of the “Libraries, Literacy, and Kids” web log on the NLLN webpage.

## **III. North Star Library Consortium**

1. The most intense activity was focused on writing the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant. Negotiating new cost proposals from Follett and

designing an extensive staff development component were the most time consuming. Mosaic Consulting (grant consultants) were extremely helpful in putting all the pieces together. Region I in Moorhead, the actual applicant, was also extremely helpful in negotiating new cost proposals with Follett and in designing the proposed ASP model.

2. Follett has set up a demonstration server for us and loaded the records from the Waubun and Kittson County school media centers. I had a virtual demo of this site and established NLLN as a member library of the consortium. This site will allow us to get some experience with the system and use it for demonstration purposes for potential consortium members. The steering committee for the Project will be doing further work with the system in late August.
3. Follett has added a number of new features to the Destiny system in its latest upgrade. This included all the Minnesota academic standards being available from the online catalog – a very interesting and useful tool. We have not had a chance to fully explore this yet, but the potential is great for integrating media center resources with the curriculum and the standards.

#### **IV. Communication**

1. Produced 2 Newsletters for print/electronic distribution.
2. Revised and considerably expanded the NLLN webpage. New Strategic Plan, 2005 Workplan, GB Agenda/Minutes, Voter Registration button, and new Spotlight on Books page were all added to the site. Other changes were made to make it cleaner and easier to use.
3. Continue to explore alternatives for hosting the NLLN webpage.
4. Membership agreements and membership lists have been edited, revised, and updated. A membership survey will be conducted in the coming months to further update information and to determine potential NLLN members.
5. The NLLN brochure is in the process of being updated. A revision of the current brochure will be made while a more attractive brochure is anticipated during the coming year.
6. A new display board was purchased for use at workshops, conferences, and meetings to communicate the work of NLLN.