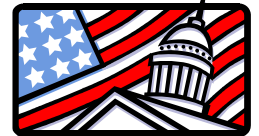


Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

October/November 2004

After the Elections . . .



It is time to prepare for 2005.

After the elections on November 2, all levels of government are going to begin working on the policy and budget issues for the coming year. We, too, need to be working on how the library policy and budget issues will be presented in the new year .

Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, has outlined several key areas for advocacy that will help us to position ourselves for 2005. I have paraphrased them as follows:

- ❖ **Plan strategically for advocacy:** Staff and Boards should know the library's issues and define clear roles for advocacy.
- ❖ **Build a base of support for library issues:** communicate with supporters, volunteers, donors, and library users about library issues.
- ❖ **Strengthen strategic relationships with elected officials and staff:** do it now before the new year begins!
- ❖ **Collaborate with allies:** identify groups that share our agenda and issues. Combined efforts are more powerful.
- ❖ **Prepare the public and the press on Library issues:** focus external communication on explaining our issues.

We need to think about these areas as individuals, as library staff and library boards, and within our professional organizations. MLA, MEMO, and MALF will all be working in the coming months to articulate library issues and positions, and assist us all to speak with a clear voice.

For more details about Marcia Avner's statement, please see the Fall 2004 issue of *Nonprofit News*. For more information about the legislative activities of MLA and MEMO, please see their websites and keep abreast of the work of the MLA Legislative Committee.

Watch for the MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform as it is finalized. Help create the talking points that support the platform. Be aware of issues affecting different types of libraries. Supply your ELM stories to MINITEX. Talk with your users about library issues. Make contact with elected officials at all levels.

Now is the time to act! We are the ones to do it! ~ ~ Ruth

Northern Lights Library Network

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North Star Library Consortium Update

The **North Star Library Consortium** project is off and running!

Thanks to an Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) grant, this project will provide an affordable, centrally administered, integrated library system (ILS) for school media centers and special libraries in the NLLN region. Region I, Moorhead, in partnership with NLLN, will administer this grant to create and build the **North Star Library Consortium**. Members of the consortium will access the ILS via the Internet, using any web browser, and from any type of platform (PC or Mac). The software will reside on central servers at Region 1, in Moorhead, thus removing the need for local servers, as well as the need for technical support and maintenance of hardware and software in every building and at every site. Software installation, maintenance, and upgrades will be done at the central site. Each member of the consortium will pay affordable annual maintenance costs for the support of the software, and for the hosting/telecommunications services from Region I.

In addition to the providing a sophisticated library automation system and creating a regional virtual union catalog, the E2T2 grant will provide for extensive library staff development opportunities. The objectives of this staff development will be to improve student academic achievement by improving, and increasing, the effectiveness of school library media center programs throughout the region. Staff development will include use of the ILS system as well as address topics such as collaboration with teachers, information technology literacy standards, developing a love of reading in students, and successful management strategies for the school media center.

More detailed information will be posted on the NLLN website (<http://nlln.org/northstar>) as it becomes available and direct communication will be sent to all school districts, school media centers, and special libraries in the NLLN region regarding options for participation in the project.

Virtual demonstrations of the Destiny software will be held on November 15 and 17, 3:30-4:30 PM, for anyone interested in seeing the software and having a look at the “back office” management.

How can I find out more? Watch for more information as it becomes available on the North Star website at <http://nlln.org/northstar>. Or call/email Ruth Solie at the NLLN office (1-800-450-1032/rsolie@nlln.org).

Early Childhood Initiative Going Strong!

The six Minnesota Initiative Funds in greater Minnesota have undertaken an intensive Early Childhood Initiative in 36 communities across the state. Twelve communities in the NLLN region have been selected to participate—6 from the West Central Initiative Fund (Fergus Falls) and 6 from the Northwest Minnesota Fund (Bemidji).

The WCIF Early Childhood Initiative includes the communities of **Brandon, Perham, Stevens County, Pope County, Pelican Rapids and the Community of White Earth**. The Northwest Minnesota Foundation Initiative includes the communities of **Warroad, Park Rapids, Bagley, Thief River Falls, Crookston and Marshall County**. Watch for more news on the efforts in these communities to build support for early childhood care and education in Minnesota.

\$\$\$

Continuing Education Scholarships Available

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Congratulations to **Mary Garlie, Pam Westby, Tami Skinner, Colleen Thomas, Dotz Johnson, Amy Soma, and Nance Kunkel!** They are the most recent recipients of NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships which enabled them to attend:

- ❖ The MEMO Fall Conference in St Cloud
- ❖ The MLA Fall Conference in Duluth
- ❖ The PLA/ALSC Institute in Bloomington
- ❖ A library conference in Bulgaria!

Would you like to join this list? Would financial aid help you? Would \$300 make it possible for you to participate in a continuing education event that you would otherwise have to miss? More than 40 scholarships have been awarded since the beginning of this program in July 2002 and the program continues to grow.

Scholarship guidelines and application forms are available on the NLLN website (<http://nlln.org>) or by calling the NLLN Office at 800-450-1032. Take advantage of the many opportunities that exist for continuing education. For more information or questions, call Ruth at 800-450-1032.

To see what these people had to say about their experience, please look at the new site on the NLLN web page that includes Scholarship reports.



LSTA Competitive Grants Awarded

The 2004 LSTA competitive grant awards were recently announced and congratulations go to the regional public library systems for their successful applications.

- ❖ **Kitchigami Regional Library:** "Surveying Seniors' Library Service Needs".
- ❖ **Northwest Regional Library:** "Literacy Training of Preschoolers in Day Care"
- ❖ **Kitchigami Regional Library:** "Delivering the Goods"
- ❖ **Lake Agassiz Regional Library:** "Library Link Sites"
- ❖ **Northwest Regional Library:** "Effective Delivery of Interlibrary Loans in NWRL"
- ❖ **Viking Library System:** "Delivery for Public Libraries, K-12 Schools, & Area Colleges".

The 2005 round of LSTA competitive grants begins with a November 4 workshop in Detroit Lakes (see events calendar) outlining the revised grant application process. Anyone considering applying for an LSTA grant in the 2005 round should attend this workshop. Letters of intent will be due January 7, 2005, and full grant applications will be due March 25, 2005.

Contact Ruth Solie, NLLN, or Jym Wroblewski, LSTA Coordinator, for more information about LSTA.

NLLN Scholarship Recipients

Julia Browne	Julia Toriseva
Liz Larson	Sharon Gunkel
Betty Johansen	Nanci Tobias
Pam Westby	Mary Haney
Tami Skinner	Connie Bensen
Lina Belar	Helen Goodin
Damita Underwood	Judy Pulczynski
Dotz Johnson	Dawna Hochstein
Lois Schaedler	Amy Soma
Claudia Seymour	Colleen Thomas
Eileen Smeby	Lori Schaible
Mary Garlie	Nance Kunkel
Laurie Conzemius	
Stacy Jensen	
Brook Berg	



Minnesota Library Association Webpage (<http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/>)

When was the last time that you looked at the Minnesota Library Association's Webpage? Did you dig deep?

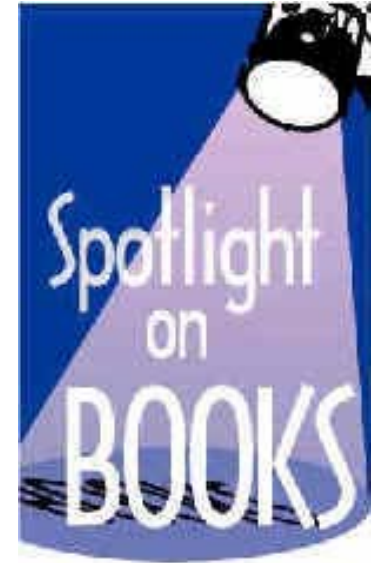
This is a great site to mine for information of professional and career interest, but also a great way to find out what your colleagues in different types of libraries are doing.

The main page is always being updated. Most recently added is information about the **MLA Leadership Institute** taking place next March, and the **LAMP program** — a new mentoring program for Minnesota librarians. Be sure and check this out.

You'll also find information about upcoming **events**, the **MLA Newsletter**, **membership** application forms, the **MLA Foundation** and links to the divisions, sections, and round tables of MLA. Such as:

- ◆ **ARLD**—Academic and Research Libraries Division. Find MLA conference program materials ACRL's information literacy standards for higher education, and links to ACRL.
- ◆ **SSPiN** — Support Staff and Paraprofessionals Interest Section - has events, LinkUp! Newsletter, and information about Branchout 2005 (in Duluth, this year).
- ◆ **CYP** — Children's and Young People's Section. Has info on teens, early literacy resources, events, and programming resources.
- ◆ **IFC** — Intellectual Freedom Committee. Has links to ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom, CIPA information, and MLA's Statement on Internet Access.
- ◆ **PLD** — Public Library Division. Includes information on the PLD Listserv, events, bylaws, and Annual Report for 2004.
- ◆ **RLD** — Readers' Advisory Round Table. Includes year end report, Annual Readers' Advisory Retreat information, and some great booklists.
- ◆ **TSS** — Technical Services Section. Includes links to technical services resources, bylaws, and events.

New information is always being added and links are also available to **Mn Assoc of Library Friends** (<http://www.malf.info/>) and to the **Mn Media Education Organization** (<http://www.memoweb.org/>). Check them all out.



17th Annual

Spotlight on Books

April 8-9, 2005
Sugar Lake Lodge

*A Conference for Adults
Focused on Youth Literature*

Featured Authors for 2005:

- ❖ Eric Rohmann ❖
- ❖ Gwenyth Swain ❖
- ❖ Pete Hautman ❖

Watch for complete
information as it becomes available

<http://nlln.org/spotlight>



The noteworthy, briefly noted . . .

- 🔗 The **new ERIC online system**, released September 2004, provides the public with a centralized ERIC Web site for searching the ERIC bibliographic database of more than 1.1 million citations going back to 1966. **Effective October 1, more than 107,000 full-text non-journal documents (issued 1993-2004), previously available through fee-based services only, will be available for free.** <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>
- 🔗 **Minnesota Storytime:** This project of the Minnesota Humanities Commission and the CYP section of MLA is a fabulous resource and continues to grow. All the 45 books are by Minnesota authors and each has a useful and well-prepared reading guide which includes activities, similar books, target ages, and much more. Take a moment to check it out at: <http://www.mnstorytime.org> .
- 🔗 The **New State Library Services and School Technology Newsletter** is now available online at http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_lib_publication.htm . Meet Suzanne Miller, State Librarian, and read about activities, news, upcoming events in Minnesota libraries. This publication will come out bi-monthly on the 15th of the Month. Notices of its availability will be issued via email so watch for announcements of future issues.
- 🔗 **Recommended Standards for Information and Technology Literacy** were adopted by MEMO at the Fall Conference and will be included in the MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform for adoption by the state. Please take a look at these standards. Information and technology literacy is an issue relevant to all libraries and is a necessary life-long skill. Watch for workshops on this topic in the NLLN region. The Standards can be found at: <http://www.memoweb.org>.
- 🔗 **Children's Literature Network** is a rich resource for children's literature, and great for locating information about Minnesota authors, their work, their contact information, and fees for programming. Find it at: <http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org>
- 🔗 The Minnesota Library Association has announced the first **MLA Leadership Institute**, "Building the Next Generation of Library Leaders", to be held at the College of St Catherine, March 29-31, 2005. The Institute will accept 25 applicants and 5 alternates. For more information, go to the MLA website: <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org>.
- 🔗 The **Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF)** has put up a new webpage that has great resources for all Friends groups. <http://www.malf.info/>.
- 🔗 **Partners Internship Program 2005** announces grants to nonprofit agencies to hire paid summer interns for special projects. The application, project criteria, deadlines and much more are available online at: <http://www.hecua.org/pip>.
- 🔗 The American Library Association has made its "**Communications Handbook for Libraries**" available online as a 39 page, downloadable, PDF document. It is a very comprehensive but easily used guide to library communication. You can find it at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/availablepiomat/commhandbook.htm>
- 🔗 If you were unable to attend the recent teleconference from ALA , "**Making Copyright Work for Your Library**", an archived videostreamed copy of the teleconference is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/availablepiomat/commhandbook.htm>. This will allow you to view the entire teleconference from your desktop at a time that is convenient for you.



October Media Center Workshop at Northwest Service Cooperative. **Alice Hoftstad**, convener, at left. **Senator LeRoy Stumpf** and **Rep Maxine Penas** (right) talk to attendees in Thief River Falls.



Sharon Gunkel, Donna Winder, Joan Larson at the MEMO Conference, St Cloud. Joan was the recipient of the MEMO Distinguished Service Award.



Tami Skinner and Pam Westby, Pelican Rapids Public Library, with display at MLA Fall Conference, Duluth.

“Minnesota Reflections”

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition (MDLC) recently held its second Annual Conference at the Minnesota History Center in St Paul. If you have not kept up with this group, but are interested, go to <http://www.mndigital.org> for more info on the Coalition, the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), and “Minnesota Reflections” project. Some interesting and exciting things are happening.

With LSTA funding from the office of State Library Services, MN Department of Education, the MDLC will begin creating its signature project, “Minnesota Reflections”. This will be the first collection in the Minnesota Digital Library. Working with the state’s libraries, archives, historical societies, and museums, the MDLC plans to **digitize up to 10,000 photographic positives, negatives, or postcards depicting Minnesota prior to 1909**. These digital images will be accessible to the public over the world wide web. These images from the early history of Minnesota through the first 50 years of statehood will be an important resource as the state prepares to celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2008.

The members of the MDLC will work with you to bring digital images into the MDL. Several options are available for doing this. For much more detailed information about this project and how you can participate, look at the **Call for Project Proposals** at <http://www.mndigital.org/Call4Projects.pdf>. Or contact Jim Dildine, MDL Project manager.

Within the NLLN region we have many local collections of importance to Minnesota history. Whether you are new to digitization or an experienced practitioner, consider how you might like to participate in this project and NLLN can help you get on board.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- Sept 30-Oct 2 MEMO Fall Conference, St Cloud, MN (<http://www.memoweb.org>)
- Oct 2 Association for Library Services to Children National Institute, including "Every Child Ready to Read@your library" training, Bloomington, MN
- Oct 11 NW-LINKS Governance Council, ITV sites
- Oct 16 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes, 10am-Noon
- Oct 6-8 MLA Fall Conference, Duluth, MN: "Minnesota Libraries: Your Link to Knowledge and Recreation" (<http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Annual%20Conf.htm>)
- Oct 18 Northwest Service Cooperative Media Services Workshop, Thief River Falls, 9-3PM
- Oct 20 North Star Library Consortium Planning Committee meeting, Detroit Lakes Public Library/ITV, 3:30-5:30 PM
- Oct 17-23 Teen Read Week: "It's Alive@ your library".
- Oct 19 Closing The Gap, Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. Exhibits open to the public, Oct 23. <http://www.closingthegap.com>
- Oct 25 Minnesota Digital Library Coalition Annual Meeting, 9-3:45, Minnesota History Center, St Paul. [Http://www.mndigital.org](http://www.mndigital.org)
- Oct 28-29 Mn Rural Education Conference, Arrowwood, Alexandria
- Oct 30 Church Library Workshop, Ylvisaker Library, Concordia College. Sponsored by Concordia College and Northern Lights Library Network.

NOVEMBER

- Nov 2 ELECTION DAY
- Nov 4 LSTA Grant Writing Workshop, Room B101, Mn Community and Technical College, Detroit Lakes, 9:30-1:00 PM Register by email: rsolie@nlln.org
- Nov 8 MnLINK Users Group Meeting, Bandana Square, St Paul
- Nov 9 Disaster! Preparing a Library Response Plan, Ridgedale Library, Minnetonka, 9-12:30.
- Nov 10 MINERVA 2004 Symposium, 8:30-7. Various locations.
- Nov 11-13 Minnesota Reading Association Conference, St Cloud
- Nov 15 Virtual demonstration of the Destiny system. Registration required. 3:30-4:30—online
- Nov 17 Virtual demonstration of the Destiny system. Registraton required. 3:30-4:30—online
- Nov 20 Children's Book Week Festival, St Paul. 11-2:00PM. More info
- Nov 15-21 **Children's Book Week**: "Let's Book!" (<http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/>)
- Nov 25-26 Thanksgiving/ NLLN Office closed

DECEMBER

- Dec 2 Advisory Council to LDS, St Paul
- Dec 3 MINITEX Advisory Council, Andersen Library, Minneapolis
- Dec 4 NLLN Governing Board, 10-Noon, location to be announced
- Dec 4-7 TIES Education Technology Conference, Minneapolis
- Dec 24-26 NLLN Office Closed for Christmas

Dates in 2005:

- Jan 4-5 Council of Cooperating Libraries, St Paul
- Feb 6-7 MEMO Midwinter Conference, Alexandria (<http://www.memoweb.org>)
- Feb NLLN Governing Board Meeting
- Mar 29-31 First MLA Leadership Institute, College of St Catherine



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ELM: A world of information

Your ELM To Do Check-list:

- Submit your **ELM stories** to MINITEX. These will be used to demonstrate the value of ELM to funding entities. Go to: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/elm/feedback.asp>
- Use the **ELM logo** on your webpages. Users will find it easier when moving between different kinds of library catalogs if they can quickly and easily identify the ELM resources by seeing the ELM logo. This is so much easier than trying to remember a variety of vendors or names of individual databases.
- If you haven't done so already, be certain to make the **Ebsco databases** available to your users. They were added July 1 and will not automatically show up on your webpage.
- Update your **IP addresses** if there have been any changes. Test that your access works.
- Remote access**: provide users with information about accessing ELM resources from locations outside your library or media center. They'll love you for it!
- Contact NLLN or MINITEX if you would like **training** on any of the ELM resources. We will be happy to schedule training, in person or virtually, that will meet your needs.
- Treat yourself to an archived **MINITEX webinar** on some topic related to ELM that you always wanted to know more about. NetLibrary is full of great books! Ebsco Host has some amazing capabilities.
- Share the wealth** of ELM with your colleagues, your friends, your users, the person next to you in the checkout lane — there is truly something for everyone, but they have to know about it.
- Make it easy!** ELM is a resource for all Minnesotans, so make sure they can use it!