

**Director's Report  
Northern Lights Library Network  
December 14, 2019**



Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative system of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-central, Northwest, and West-central Minnesota. NLLN strengthens libraries and collections in the region by discovering, enhancing, and sharing resources through administrative, technological, and educational support. Northern Lights Library Network is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

*Supporting libraries through regional and statewide efforts builds a strong library infrastructure in the State of Minnesota and communicates the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens in the region and state.*

**Executive Director Kathy Enger attended the following meetings** between October 19 and December 14:

October 28: Moorhead, meeting with Gina Drellack to plan “Becoming an Author” Writing Seminar at Farm by the lake in Bagley, Saturday, July 25, 2020, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., featuring the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project.

October 31: Moorhead, “The Big Read” NEA grant conversation with Martina Haines and Travis Dolence, MSUM Library.

November 2: Alexandria, “Better Together” planning meeting with Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl.

November 5: Moorhead, Cathy Davis meeting in the library to volunteer.

November 7: Online, Amanda Standerfer Consulting meeting with the multi-type directors.

November 18: St. Cloud, Multi-county, multi-type directors meeting with consultant, Amanda Standerfer to stage strategic plan.

November 19: Minneapolis, St. Mary’s University Center Minnesota Council on Nonprofits seminar, “National Foundations: Know Who and How”.

November 19: Minneapolis, Mpls. Public Schools, picked up books and learning materials for Circle of Life Academy in White Earth.

November 21: White Earth, Circle of Life Academy Library open house.

November 22: Detroit Lakes, powwow at the middle school, display table with free books from the Summy donation.

December 11: Online, Amanda Standerfer Consulting meeting with the multi-type directors.

*Northern Lights Library Network funds participation at continuing education program events and national and international conferences for library professionals who may not otherwise be able to participate without the support of NLLN. Continuing education scholarships are awarded as incentive for individual growth and development in order to enhance library services throughout the NLLN region.*

**NLLN awarded the following scholarships for academic, school, special, and public librarians:**

| <b>LIBRARY</b>                     | <b>EVENT</b>                                     | <b>AMOUNT</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| MSUM - Moorhead                    | Basics of Cataloging - online                    | \$379.00      |
| MSUM - Moorhead                    | IBBY Conference – Oct.                           | \$500.00      |
| MSUM                               | IBBY Conference – Oct.                           | \$500.00      |
| Perham Area Public Library         | MLA Conference --Sept.                           | \$380.00      |
| LARL - Moorhead                    | MLA Conference – Sept.                           | \$500.00      |
| LARL - Crookston                   | MLA Conference – Sept.                           | \$500.00      |
| LARL - Moorhead                    | MLA Conference – Sept.                           | \$500.00      |
| LARL - Detroit Lakes               | MLA Conference – Sept.                           | \$456.50      |
| LARL - Barnesville                 | MLA Conference – Sept.                           | \$455.00      |
| MSUM - Moorhead                    | PALS Users Group – Oct.                          | \$490.38      |
| Campbell-Tintah School             | ITEM Conference – Oct.                           | \$500.00      |
| Pelican Rapids Schools             | What’s New in YA Lit. - Nov.                     | \$357.00      |
| MSUM - Moorhead                    | Minitex Tech. Services - Nov.                    | \$207.50      |
| Viking Library System-Fergus Falls | IASL 2019 Conference – Oct.                      | \$500.00      |
| Viking Library System-Fergus Falls | MLIS course St John's University<br>Sept. - July | \$500.00      |
| Warroad High School                | Bureau of Ed. & Research – Dec.                  | \$500.00      |
|                                    |  | \$7,225.38    |

NLLN is providing a child’s and adult Kindle Fire for the **Holiday Book Drive with White Earth Early Childhood Initiative program** as a raffle for the person donating the most books. NLLN also gave ECI winter books from Cathy Davis’s book donation and Kathy Enger donated

a handmade Children's Christmas quilt from the Little Red Hen House in Bluffton for the raffle. Casey Francis from the White Earth Early Childhood Initiative is coordinating the drive.

NLLN brought donated books from the Summy collection (via Adell and Dewey Bridgeford) to the **Detroit Lakes powwow** on November 22<sup>nd</sup> as a free give-away display.

**The Circle of Life Academy reopened its school library.** Sharon Stalboerger, educator at Circle of Life Academy, and retired Waubun Media Specialist, ChrisMcArthur, reopened the Circle of Life Academy library with access to the Destiny catalog through Region 1, collection management, and circulation assistance (barcoding, call numbers, etc.). NLLN paid Chris a stipend for her work in the library (at least several hundred hours). ***The library open house was November 21<sup>st</sup> when every student checked-out a book.*** Laurie Villwock from Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School connected Sharon and NLLN with four boxes of donated children's books from Minneapolis Public Schools and Executive Director Kathy Enger brought the books to the library during the open house.

***NLLN strives to provide access to reading material for all people in the region. Great libraries create community optimism, individual well-being, and overall civic health.***

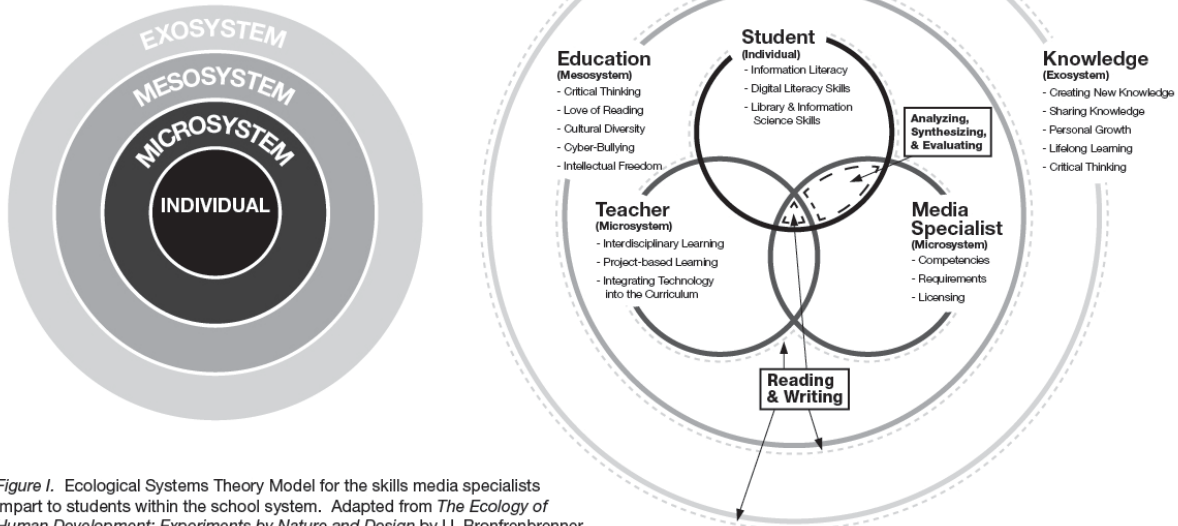


Executive Director Kathy Enger continues to **review for *College & Research Libraries***.

She will present **“Leading Students to the Future with the Literacy Skills They Need”** at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference in Minneapolis on January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is an abstract and model of the research:

*Using qualitative grounded theory analysis, 2,240 pages of documents on media specialists in the library and information science literature were analyzed to determine the skills media specialists impart to students. As media specialists in public schools have lost their positions, these skills, which focus on using information effectively, include information literacy, digital literacy, and library and information science, skills that are necessary for student success in the electronic era. In the process of learning how to access information and use knowledge effectively, students read, write, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information. Students without access to information are at a disadvantage, creating a social and digital divide that schools can mitigate by employing media specialists. Results ground the model in Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory:*

**Figure 1.** Ecological Systems Theory Model for the Skills and Knowledge Students Acquire from Media Specialists



*Figure 1.* Ecological Systems Theory Model for the skills media specialists impart to students within the school system. Adapted from *The Ecology of Human Development: Experiments by Nature and Design* by U. Bronfenbrenner. Copyright 1979 by Harvard University Press.

***A primary goal of Northern Lights Library Network is to bring resources from the state and national level to the local level. Another goal is to discover resources within the region and share them universally.***

The next **“Better Together” workshop** will be **June 11, 2020**, at Lakes Country Service Cooperative in Fergus Falls. Glenn Heinecke, Roseau Public School, and Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell School, lead the workshop, while NLLN facilitates it.

*The purpose of the “Better Together” workshop is to bring together the many valuable resources in our region, including the knowledgeable, friendly, and dedicated people working in our schools and libraries. The workshop gives participants the opportunity to get to know each other -- to share successes, challenges, and best practices -- and build a lasting network of colleagues.*

**“Youth Voice & Choice” YALSA training** will be Friday, June 5, from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Blackduck. Leah Larson from State Library Services and Andrea Egbert from Anoka County Library will present the training; Jayne Rivard-Fenske from Blackduck School is hosting it; and NLLN is sponsoring the YALSA training. YALSA coordinates efficient and effective processes for transforming teen services throughout the U.S., so that teen programs and services enhance civic and cultural engagement, facilitate lifelong learning, promote digital inclusion, and support economic vitality. The training brings together front-line library staff for youth service training. To register, send Executive Director Kathy Enger an email at: [Kathy.Enger@nlln.org](mailto:Kathy.Enger@nlln.org)

*From early reading activities to advanced literary discussions, library literacy initiatives bring people together to get to know books in enjoyable and satisfying situations. Literacy promotes personal improvement and enlightenment, insures equality, dignifies, and creates prosperity.*

**Becoming an Author Writing Seminar** will be held Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at *Farm by the Lake* in Bagley. Gina Drellack, Education Service Consultant with Northwest Service Cooperative, will lead the seminar, which includes writing instruction segments and free writing time, in addition to private, individual coaching to support each participant's writing projects. There is no charge for the seminar. Gina will introduce participants to the **Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project** ([mlpp.pressbooks.pub](http://mlpp.pressbooks.pub)). Minnesota's Regional Public Library systems and Academic Libraries support the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project platform. Gina holds a Certificate in Writing from the University of California, Berkeley; a Master's degree in Educational Media Technology, and is a Certified Life Coach. NLLN is sponsoring the seminar. To register, send an email to Kathy Enger at: [Kathy.Enger@nlln.org](mailto:Kathy.Enger@nlln.org)

**New Rivers Literary Press (NRP)** received funding from **Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC)** to distribute a new title, *You May Have the Suitcase Now* by Beaudelaine Pierre to libraries in the region. *You May Have the Suitcase Now* tells the story of new immigrants to Minnesota and the struggles they experience in finding a home and place, here. Through immigration, we all have the opportunity to experience new life and cultures, which are so beautifully and simply portrayed in this book. A letter from NLLN was written to Lake Region Arts Council to support the project and co-editors, Travis Dolence and Nathan Rundquist, wrote the LRAC grant.

**Full-Day Diversity and Inclusion Workshop for Library Personnel in the Region.** NLLN is sponsoring a workshop in collaboration with the Tri-College libraries (MSUM, Concordia, NDSU) *for all library personnel in the region* tentatively scheduled for April 1, coordinated by Laura Probst, Concordia; Martina Haines, MSUM; and Dr. Joe Mocnik, NDSU. The keynote and facilitator will be Anne Phibbs, From *Strategic Diversity Initiatives*, "Exceptional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services that Meet You Where You're At: We Create Equitable and Inclusive Spaces, Workplaces, and Organizations, Where Every Person is Understood, Valued, and Given the Opportunity to Thrive." <https://strategicdi.com/>

**Adell Bridgeford, retired Walker, Hackensack, and Akeley Media Specialist, along with Walker High School English teacher, Chris Chastak** received funding from Sourcewell to bring books, newspapers, and magazines into three Walker High School English classes and a library space and provide training for students and staff on the use of eLibrary Minnesota. NLLN worked with Adell to write the Sourcewell grant and sponsored eLibrary Minnesota training at Minitex in June. The project is moving forward with preparing books to circulate and eLibrary Minnesota training will take place at Walker High School in February.

**Roseau Media Specialist, Glenn Heinecke, consulted with the Warroad School Library in November.** NLLN paid mileage for the visit.

***Reading increases understanding and improves lives. Reading newspapers, magazines, journals, and books gives readers information they can use to improve their health, well-being, and build satisfying lifestyles. Reading expands possibilities and promises experiences beyond the scope of every-day life.***

Many students living within the counties served by **Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL)** and **Northwest Regional Library (NWRL)** need access to eBooks. At the beginning of December, Northern Lights Library Network sent \$5,000 to **Lake Agassiz Regional Library** and \$5,000 to **Northwest Regional Library** to support their Overdrive collections for children and young adults. There has been a steady increase in the use of eBooks and eAudiobooks in schools in the region. LARL and NWRL are encouraging schools, teachers, and students to register for LARL and NWRL library cards to access the eBook services provided to them through their public library. eBook and eAudiobook access for students enhance efforts schools make to provide content rich materials to students.

See <https://lptv.org/lakeland-currents-the-role-of-libraries-in-the-21st-century/> for an interview on Lakeland PBS with *Currents* host Carl Sewall, Bemidji State University Library Assistant Professor, Patrick Leeport, and NLLN's Kathy Enger.

***“NLLN has significantly affected me, my school, my students, and my region. I firmly believe that because of NLLN, I am a better educator, my students have better access to libraries, and the librarians and libraries in our region are stronger and continuing to improve” Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell Tintah School.***



Northern Lights Library Network is one of seven multi-county, multi-type library systems in Minnesota mandated by Minnesota Statute 134.351 to develop and maintain services including, but not limited to, “referral of users, intra-system reciprocal borrowing, cooperative collection development, cooperative reference services, staff development, research and development, cooperative storage facilities, and publicity and community relations”.

There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries. The five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- Share Resources Among all Participating Libraries
- Provide Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs
- Develop a Delivery System for Services and Programs
- Development of a Bibliographic Database
- Maintain a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions:

- Develop library staff professionally
- Improve local library collections
- Sponsor and support funding for libraries
- Champion for libraries
- Create, develop, and maintain library programs that enrich the lives of Minnesotans
- Move the discipline of Library and Information Science forward through research, presentations, and publications
- Lead and administer our own nonprofit agencies.

The seven systems are governed by regional boards.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (the State of Minnesota covers a total of 86,939 miles) that includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

The Northern Lights Library Network system consists of four regional public library systems; academic libraries on two campuses of the University of Minnesota at Crookston and Morris; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System institutions including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College on four campuses (Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Wadena,

and Fergus Falls); three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; numerous private colleges; one hundred eighty five school libraries (including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools) in seventy-nine school districts; and a rich variety of special libraries in museums, county law libraries, hospitals, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to determine the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine what supporting structures are required for local library systems to function successfully, taking into account the unique needs of people at the local level and the different types of libraries served.

Northern Lights Library Network reduces duplication of services by enhancing coordination among libraries. As resources are shared among libraries, services are expanded, and efficiency is improved. As a result, libraries can offer services or programs they may not otherwise be able to afford. All of the work performed by Northern Lights Library Network affects the direct service of its members, and has an exponential effect on its client base.