

REFERENCE NOTES

A program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (HESO) at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

August 2002

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

North Star.....	1-2
Gale Link to Holdings Feature Webinars.....	2
Gale-Ingenta Webinars.....	2-3
Reference Services Symposium.	3
Request for Assistance	4

North Star--Minnesota State Government Online

<http://www.state.mn.us>

Whether you're looking for information on the Minnesota State Fair, State Park reservations, boating regulations, economic statistics, or state statutes, North Star is the place to go. This site, led by the Office of Technology, Department of Administration, is packed full of facts, figures, phone numbers, and just about any type of information relating to Minnesota you could imagine. North Star's main page is decorated with a colorful picture of the loon, the state bird. Down the right side of the page, is the "menu," and on the left side is a section called "features," that changes with the seasons.

The menu gives many different options for navigating through North Star. There is a search button that allows you to run a search or choose from several different subject categories like Arts and Humanities, Business and Economics, or Recreation. The Directories link takes you into Minnesota government white and yellow pages, a directory for schools and districts, including higher education, as well as U.S. Federal directories. The Government Offices link brings up a table of contents that includes Minnesota government branches, agencies, boards, commissions, councils, offices, task forces, and other publicly supported institutions. Another link, On-Line Services, offers Minnesota Government on-line resources. You can access a Minnesota Unemployment Benefits Application on-line, the Minnesota Grown Directory, renew your vehicle registration on-line, and even file your taxes on-line. Announcements of new public information services from Minnesota State Agencies are available via the "What's New" link.

"All About Minnesota" has an educational spin to it. This section includes information on public policy issues facing the state, economic facts and figures, and detailed information on local community commercial property for sale or lease. The link to information on Minnesota history takes you into the Minnesota Historical Society Web site. "The Tools of Democracy" includes Minnesota government branches plus much more. The Minnesota State Constitution is available via this link, as well as statutes, session laws, and legislation bill and tracking information, and current court of appeals opinions. Election and voter information is also available here. You can register to vote, find your polling place, get redistricting information, and election results or statistics. Another option from the main menu is the "Frequently Requested Sites" link. This includes Driver License and Vehicle Registration information, tax forms, Minnesota library systems and catalogs, and a list of frequently called phone numbers.

On the right hand side of the North Star page, is the "Features" section which seems to change seasonally except for the Minnesota Governor's Web site. Currently, at the top of this list is information on the North Star Portal, which is a statewide government portal. There is a North Star Pilot Portal Development site that is accessible via North Star's main page. The idea is to make North Star more consistent and "organized to best suit individual users' needs (citizen-centric content vs. agency-centric)."

Continued on page 2

INFORMATION BITS

MLA 2002 Annual Conference

"Old Friends, New Partners, @ your library, Collaborating for Better Service."

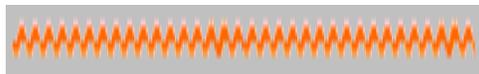
September 25-27, 2002, at Touchstone Energy Place at RiverCentre in St. Paul. Visit

<http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/> for more information or to register.

QuestionPoint

In this month's issue of *Reference Notes* we've enclosed a QuestionPoint brochure. Please take a moment to take a look and see if this collaborative reference service is right for you, your library, and your patrons. For more information visit <http://www.QuestionPoint.org>

or to register, contact Karen Docherty at MINITEX (kdochert@umn.edu).



One of the seasonal features at North Star is a link to the Minnesota State Fair site where you can get schedules for entertainment and concerts as well as competitions. There is an on-line box office where you can purchase admission and Midway tickets. A few other seasonal links take you to Minnesota boating regulations, fishing in Minnesota, and state park reservations. Each of these links takes you into the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) site. The fishing site contains detailed information on the species of fish found in Minnesota lakes, including the state record. Fishing licenses and fishing season information can be found here too. The State Park Reservation site is the place to visit if you're looking for campsites, camper cabins, regular cabins, or group camp facilities. The DNR has information on fees and cost, park rules, and maps. State parks are searchable alphabetically or by region.

North Star has an extensive list of resources relating to employment in Minnesota. There is a site for State of Minnesota and school district employees who have been laid-off. They are eligible for assistance from the Dislocated Worker Program. The State of Minnesota jobs site contains current job openings, how to apply for state jobs, and other information about career opportunities in Minnesota State Government. The Minnesota Work Force Center and Minnesota's Job Bank are accessible via the employment link too.

The North Star site also contains a "Kid's Zone." This provides "young visitors and their parents with fun activities, help researching school projects, and information about Minnesota and parent resources." The Kid's Zone is divided by different topic areas. There is a section for pre-schoolers as well as a section for parents. There is a State Government Kid site and a Federal Government Kids site. The "Cool Stuff" section contains information on learning the Dewey Decimal system, origami, recipes, and pets.

As you can see, North Star is jam packed full of information, not just for the state of Minnesota, but for the nation too. The North Star site allows individuals to participate in a democratic system by offering access to government information and data that is "comprehensive, efficient, and always available." It is the official access point to electronic government information and services for the state of Minnesota. If you haven't had the chance or a reason to utilize this site, it is highly recommended that you take the time to check out it!



Gale Link to Holdings Webinars

Would you like your library users to be able to quickly link from records in the Gale databases to your library's OPAC? Wouldn't it be great if patrons could find a paper copy of a periodical in your collection while searching in Expanded Academic Index, General Reference Center or one of the many other Gale databases?

Setting up this feature is easy. In order for this feature to work, your library must be accessing the Gale databases through the Gale native interface (not through PALS or MnLINK), your catalog must have a web interface, and it must allow for ISSN searching. Karen Docherty, of the MINITEX CPERS unit, will walk you through the simple steps. All you have to do is sit at your computer, dial an 800 number, and she will demonstrate the process live, over the Web. Choose from one of the following dates and times and RSVP to Karen at kdochert@umn.edu.

Thursday, August 22nd, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, August 28th, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
 Friday, September 6th, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
 Thursday, September 12th, 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Gale-Ingenta Webinars

Now, thanks to Karen Docherty at MINITEX, you can learn more about the Gale-Ingenta relationship right from your desktop. Karen, part of MINITEX's CPERS (Cooperative Purchasing & Electronic Resources Services) program, has been offering live Webinars on the Gale-Ingenta partnership. MINITEX has been offering several sessions monthly outlining this new partnership and informing librarians how they can set-up access. You just sit at your computer, dial an

Reference Notes

MINITEX Library Information Network
 University of Minnesota, 15 Andersen Library
 222 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0439

Reference Phone.....612-624-4150, WATS 800-462-5348
 Reference Fax.....612-624-4508
 Staats, Beth.....612-624-7873, fried004@tc.umn.edu
 Hoffman, Susan.....612-626-7298, s-hoff@tc.umn.edu
 Temple, Heidi Armstrong...612-626-9843, h temple@tc.umn.edu
 Parker, Mary.....612-624-1024, m-park1@tc.umn.edu
 Main Website.....www.minitex.umn.edu
 Reference Website.....www.minitex.umn.edu/reference
 Email.....ref@othello.lib.umn.edu
 Office Hours.....Mon-Fri., 8:00am-4:30pm
 Reference Intake Form.....
<http://kinglear.lib.umn.edu/reference/refdb>

an 800 numbers, and MINITEX will demonstrate live, over the web.

So who should attend? If your library uses Gale's Expanded Academic Index ASAP Plus and/or InfoTrac OneFile Plus databases AND you have a number of print titles that Ingenta carries, this might be a great feature for you to activate.

If you're interested in attending a live Webinar choose from the dates and times listed and RSVP to Karen Docherty at MINITEX (kdochert@umn.edu).

Wednesday, August 21st, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Friday, August 23rd, 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, August 27th, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Reference Services Symposium

<http://sdt.lib.umn.edu/reference/>

Like the weather, reference needs and services seem to change constantly, and predicting those changes involves ever more complex electronic tools. Listen, discuss and contemplate the future with national experts and local colleagues who are testing the water in the new reference world.

Highlights of the day include:

- A view of the trends in reference services, and what we might expect to see in the near future
- A look at the new Scholar's Portal, which will add another avenue for users to easily locate high-quality Web resources
- Insights from new University of Minnesota Librarian, Wendy Pradt Lougee, who is a leader in the area of digital projects
- A panel of local librarians will discuss the physical needs of reference areas in the digital age, with a special emphasis their recent experiences in planning for new and renovated spaces as well as making the best of temporary quarters.
- And, an opportunity to view posters presented by librarians from around the region. They will highlight their innovative services and share their successful ideas. Topics include: Live Reference Service, Semester at Sea Librarianship, PDAs, and the Information Literacy Toolkit.

Spend the day with others who are curious about what the future of reference might look like.

Speakers:

Wendy Pradt Lougee

As University Librarian of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Wendy Lougee is responsible for the University Libraries organization, distributed in five major facilities

and eleven branch sites. She has held that position since June 2002. Previously Lougee served as Associate Director for Digital Library Services at the University of Michigan, overseeing a campus-wide initiative to provide methodologies for digital content development, explore new economic models for scholarly communication, and enable collaborative models for the complex arena of digital collections and services. Her professional and research interests have been in the arena of library roles in a digital age, scholarly communication, and collection management models.

R. David Lankes

R. David Lankes is a faculty member at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University and is director of the Information Institute of Syracuse (IIS). His research interests include education information and digital reference services. Lankes co-founded the award winning AskERIC project in 1992. David founded the Virtual Reference Desk (VRD) project that is building a national network of expertise for education and is also one of the architects of GEM, a standards-based system for describing and finding educational materials on the Internet. The IIS houses the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information and Technology, GEM, AskERIC and the VRD.

Mary Jackson

Mary Jackson is the Senior Program Officer for Access Services at Association for Research Libraries (ARL) in Washington DC. ARL is spearheading the Scholars Portal initiative, which includes a number of cooperating libraries. She directs the North American Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery (NAILDD) Project and chairs the NAILDD Project's ILL Protocol Implementors Group (IPIG). Mary was the Principal Investigator of the ARL Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Performance Measures Study, a two-year investigation of the performance of ILL operations in 119 North American research and college libraries. She is an internationally recognized authority on interlibrary loan, document delivery, resource sharing, and copyright issues.

Panel

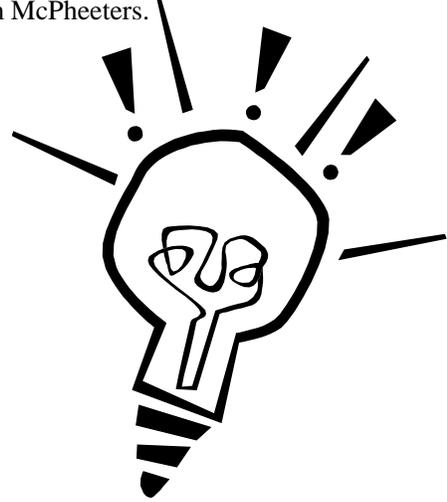
New Reference Spaces: Planning, Implementing, and How We Survived our Temporary Locations. A panel of local librarians will discuss the physical needs of reference areas in the digital age, with a special emphasis their recent experiences in planning for new and renovated spaces as well as making the best of temporary quarters.

- Terri Fishel, Macalester College, DeWitt Wallace Library
- Kathryn Fuller, University of Minnesota-Duluth
- Walter Gegner, Minneapolis Public Library
- Gary Fouty, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Occasionally, MINITEX Reference Services receives a request for a poem, quotation, picture, story, or something that cannot be found by checking standard sources. The Reference staff would like to appeal to the collective memory of MINITEX participants for assistance. Please forward any leads on the following questions to Reference Services at: **612-624-4150 or 800-462-5348**. Here is what we are looking for:

Looking for value information of a print called "The Sewing Basket" by William McPheeters. May have been done in the 1970's. (64)

Looking for any information on the artist R. Woods who did a watercolor called "Early Spring." (27)



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University of Minnesota

15 Andersen Library

222 21st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455-0439



do you think about *Reference Notes*?

greatreferencebooks



topics you would like addressed

fantastic web sites



spotlight on your
reference library

We would like to know what you would like to see in upcoming *Reference Notes*. Please either call us at 800-462-5348, send us an e-mail (see page 2 for addresses), or fill in your comments below and mail this form to MINITEX Reference.

Terrific web sites, reference books, and other sources you use:

Comments / Suggestions:

Name: (optional) _____

Library: (optional) _____ Phone: (optional) _____

**Reference Services
MINITEX Library Information Network
University of Minnesota
S-33 Wilson Library
309 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414**

1999 EVENTS CALENDAR

- June 5-10 **Special Library Association** will be holding their annual conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please see their web site for more information: www.sla.org/conf/99conf/index.shtml
- June 16 **Academic Library Advocacy Day** at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN
- July 2, 1999 **National Literacy Day** Contact: Focus on Literacy, Inc., P.O. Box 504, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021