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# MESSENGER

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## MINITEX ILL Conference Set for April 8

The 13th Annual MINITEX ILL Conference will focus on the topic “Back to Basics: Copyright and Resource Sharing” and will feature a keynote presentation by Laura N. Gasaway, Director of the Law Library & Professor of Law, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Gasaway, an authority on copyright law and cyberspace law, will discuss copyright and its impact for resource sharing and interlibrary loan. The Conference will be held at the Continuing Education & Conference Center (formerly the Earle Brown Center), St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota.

**Save the date: April 8!**  
**More information will be coming soon.**

## RFP Issued for ELM

On Dec.31, 2003, University of Minnesota Purchasing issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of MINITEX for the statewide databases provided through the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM). The RFP’s purpose is to provide interested vendors with information to enable them to prepare and submit proposals for licensing access to general and scholarly electronic information databases (with an emphasis on full text and images) that cover a wide variety of types and formats of materials and subject categories. The RFP was issued on behalf of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The purposes of licensing access to content-rich, full-text electronic resources for the three states are:

- To provide the residents of all three states with equitable access to electronic information resources for study and research, work and business, interest and pleasure, or other information-related needs.

- To ensure access by residents of all ages and regardless of geographic area or residence through Internet-connected computers in homes, businesses, schools, and libraries.
- To maximize the use of public funds through the cooperative purchase of these databases.

Vendor proposals were submitted by the Feb. 6, 2004 deadline. Vendors were required to provide trial access to the proposed database(s) and/or database package(s) for a minimum of eight weeks. These trials were announced through a message to various electronic discussion lists on Feb. 12. The resources are listed at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/exclude/rfp/>, and trial access will be available through at least April 2, 2004. Access instructions, names of products, and links to vendor/product information are available; links to evaluation forms will be added soon. School media centers and libraries in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota may open this trial access to users. MINITEX welcomes feed back about these resources, so please use the evaluation forms to provide your input.

The MINITEX Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force will evaluate the proposals, vendor presentations, and feedback from March 22-24, 2004. The anticipated date of award(s) is June, following contract negotiations.

As per the RFP guidelines, MINITEX staff and/or MEIR Task Force members cannot answer questions or discuss the products/vendors under consideration. While vendors may have submitted resource “packages” for consideration, please be aware that contracts may be awarded for individual products or for complete packages as offered.

## In My Opinion,

*By Bill DeJohn*

Enclosed with this edition of the *MINITEX MESSENGER* is the “MINITEX Resource Sharing Report, FY03, & Trends and Predictions for the Future (October 2003).” Though several people have commented to the report online (edited comments also attached), many have not, and this is an invitation for readers to review FY03 MINITEX resource sharing statistics along with the suggested seven trends and predictions for the future. Agree or disagree with the suggested trends (what did we forget?) and/or the predictions for the future (what did we miss or get wrong?).

An online form is available at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/advisory/resource.asp>

for your response. If you want to discuss the report, I’ll be glad to talk with you at 612-624-2839 or [w-dejo@umn.edu](mailto:w-dejo@umn.edu).

Here is a quick summary of the trends identified:

- Photocopies requests decrease slowly over time as availability online full text articles increases.
- Requests for returnables increase as people see more of what is available, and it’s easily accessible and delivered.
- MnLINK Gateway increases access to resources.
- MINITEX stopping referrals outside three-state region has negative impact on access.

- Materials traveling back & forth in delivery systems throughout the region will increase.
- Growing acquisitions of licensed content have significant impact on resources sharing.
- Growing needs for training of both library staff and end users are increasing.

Some quotes from interesting, helpful comments that we've received so far include:

- “The loss of MINITEX referrals has required some libraries to shift allocations from acquisitions to borrowing to fulfill user expectations.”
- “Expectations have grown among our users that they can get anything conveniently and quickly. We will have to see how these expectations will be funded — e.g. paying copyright fees, sharing costs of e-journal bundles, even footing the bill for computers and printing.”
- “In order to fulfill this need, resource sharing will need to extend to human as well as content resources (e.g., virtual reference). This may extend to shared and jointly managed Web-based training and literacy programs.”
- “Availability of AV materials may be restricted as some libraries move to streamlining as the primary means of access.”

As you look over the trends and predictions, remember that change in the library environment and the landscape of resource sharing is inevitable, probably faster than most library staff can comprehend or change themselves. However, change waits for no one, and end users are increasingly using Internet and web technology to find information that they previously would have used libraries for — if they thought libraries might have answers for their questions or could provide resources for their information needs. And, yes, we still have lots of users who turn to libraries for answers and help. But, we also have lots more people in our service communities who don't realize what libraries have to offer and will look toward the Internet for information and answers that are “good enough.”

No matter how much technology we add to our services and operations (MnLINK, local automation systems, OpenURL linking software, virtual reference software), the bottom line is that staff can and will make a difference, if we are willing to adapt rapidly to the changing environment and be willing to rethink how we provide services to people who still need them.

State and local officials may want to continue providing funding for library services at the current levels, or at decreased levels along with other decreased programs, but they are seldom willing to increase funding for the “same” services from libraries or other important programs without a compelling reason.

Directors, their staff, and their users can make persuasive arguments to officials to provide libraries with more funding, but it usually has to be for services that are undeniably important enough to convince someone to take a risk to provide additional funding and

resources. The service must add value and help their community (town, county, campus, school, agency, etc) to be better. In many cases, we have to make the case that our services will advance economic development or improve some part of the community or whatever customer base we serve. It may have been easier in good times, but it is excruciatingly difficult in economic hard times.

And, in order to make our case, we do have to think differently about services and funding levels that we used to take for granted. Now, we have to make increasingly large leaps to provide new and different services in this new and difficult environment.

## Carver County Library System Becomes Full OCLC Cataloging Member

MINITEX is excited to announce that, as of Jan. 1, 2004, Carver County Library System became a full OCLC Cataloging member (OCLC symbol CCE), joining the 190 other OCLC members in the three-state MINITEX region. With five branches in the southwest corner of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, this county system has approximately 92,000 titles in its collection, an increase of almost 30% from the previous year.

Since technical services staff numbers did not increase despite this growth, Carver County Library System has had to be creative in managing the increased cataloging and processing burden. They outsourced an Opening Day collection for the Chanhassen branch (which moved into a building 10 times the size of its previous quarters). In 2002, they subscribed to OCLC's CatExpress service, which gave them access to the OCLC database for copy cataloging purposes.

Now, they have decided to extend the efficiencies that CatExpress provided by becoming full OCLC members. Donna Peterson, Technical Services Manager, said that being full OCLC members "allows us access to a much larger database, allowing for more copy cataloging and less original cataloging. It also allows our vendors access on our behalf to the OCLC database." Carver County's OCLC membership enables Baker and Taylor, one of their primary vendors, to provide them with a much higher percentage of shelf-ready materials than was previously possible.

Once they have mastered the cataloging side of OCLC, they also plan to switch to being OCLC ILL Suppliers. They have not added holdings in OCLC for their retrospective collection, but all new acquisitions will be represented in WorldCat for resource sharing purposes.

## MLAC Turns 4!

The Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC) has over 830,000 volumes on deposit from 14 libraries throughout the state. In addition, we retrieve nearly 1,400 volumes a month to fill user requests. MLAC staff are working to transform operations to focus on smaller deposits from multiple libraries simultaneously. The current trend is for libraries to make smaller deliveries on an ongoing basis rather than single large deposits. We are also developing holdings lists for the serials stored in MLAC by various depositing libraries. The lists will also compare MLAC holdings to coverage lists of the JSTOR electronic journals package. Once the list is sufficiently developed, we will put it on the web to aid libraries in determining what to send to MLAC.

## News about MINITEX's eBook Collections & netLibrary

MINITEX has announced plans to build upon the success of its first two netLibrary eBook collections by establishing Shared Collection III and a related Shared Reference Collection. The goal of the new collection is to provide access to 1,500-2,000 additional netLibrary titles, depending upon the number of libraries that choose to participate. The Shared Reference Collection will be available at a reduced rate to libraries that participate in Shared Collection III.

Information about Shared Collection III is available at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/ebook/netlib/sharedIII.asp>

MINITEX will be hosting a webinar about the new shared eBook collection on Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. For information about registering for the webinar, see:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/upcoming.asp#sharedIII>

Webinars about the two existing eBook collections are scheduled for Feb. 25 and 27 and March 2 and 4. For more information, see:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/upcoming.asp#netlibrary>

The 45-minute webinar discusses the collections' content, how to access and search them, creating and managing your personal netLibrary account, and using netLibrary's "Librarians Tool Kit" to generate information about your library's netLibrary eBook usage.

In other news related to the MINITEX Shared Collections, netLibrary has announced a major site upgrade designed to provide faster page loads, multiple language choices, improved access for users with disabilities, and more. For more information about the upgrade and training, see the original MINITEX-NEWS announcement at:

<http://lists.minitex.umn.edu/pipermail/miniex-news/2004-January/002855.html>

## Have You Seen. . . . New on MINITEX's website!

- The MINITEX Delivery Unit's homepage on the MINITEX website has had a major facelift in the past few months. Updates include maps of the regional and multitype library systems in Minnesota, maps of North and South Dakota, descriptions of services that the Delivery Unit provides, information about delivery using MnLINK/VDX, and Direct Borrowing statistics in the MINITEX Delivery Unit. Check it out at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/delivery>

- The new MINITEX Calendar of Events continues to grow and provide information about events sponsored or cosponsored by MINITEX plus other events of interest to staff of MINITEX participating libraries. If you would like to submit items to be added to the calendar, click on the e-mail link on the calendar page. The calendar is available at:

<http://lists.minitex.umn.edu/forums/calendar.php>

## Standards Task Force Working Group Prepares Digitization Guidelines

A Working Group appointed by the MINITEX/LDS Joint Standards Review Task Force is completing work on a document that will provide explanation and a guide for libraries and other institutions taking part in the Minnesota Digital Library and other Minnesota organizations undertaking independent digitization projects. The document will help staff of these institutions make use of the:

- *Western States Dublin Core Metadata Best Practices*
- *Western States Imaging Best Practices*,

which have been adopted by the MINITEX Advisory Committee, the Advisory Council of Libraries and School Technology (the Minnesota state library agency), and the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition as guidelines for digitization projects in Minnesota. The Working Group's document, along with the two Western States Best Practices documents, are available through the Task Force's website at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/standards/documents/digitization.asp>

The Working Group's guide contains an FAQ about digitization, explanatory text about metadata with references to appropriate sections of the Metadata Best Practices documents, a glossary of terms, and a reference list of useful standards. The document will be distributed to Minnesota libraries with automated systems and is available on the web for all to use.

## NEWS FROM THE MINITEX

### Minnesota Digital Library Coalition Issues Call for Project Proposals

Plans have been announced for "Minnesota Reflections," the first major project of the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL). This signature collection will include digital images of photographic positives, negatives, or postcards depicting life in Minnesota prior to 1909. These images from Minnesota's early history through the first 50 years of statehood will be an important resource as the state prepares to celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2008. Information about the Call for Project Proposals and participation requirements are available at the MDL website (<http://www.mndigital.org>).

Image digitization and other processes required to make "Minnesota Reflections" a reality are being funded through a nearly \$300,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant provided by Minnesota's state library agency, Libraries and School Technologies (a unit of the MN Dept. of Education). The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System has also provided funding to the MDL. Eventually, the MDL will be the home or access point to many valuable historical and cultural resources.

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition (MDLC), the group guiding development of the MDL, is inviting staffs of Minnesota libraries, archives, historical societies, and museums to take part in "Minnesota Reflections," which will involve digitizing up to 10,000 images accessible to the public over the World Wide Web. MDLC members will begin reviewing applications on April 12, and proposals for digitization projects will be accepted through February 2005.

Images to be included in “Minnesota Reflections” may be original photos, negatives, or slides that are stored in collections across the state, or they may be photos that historical societies or libraries have digitized already. Providing digital versions of these photos and the information about them through a publicly accessible computer network will allow any Internet user to study otherwise hard-to-find images of Minnesota’s formative years. Those using the collection will learn about community and family histories without having to travel hundreds of miles to the cultural heritage institutions that own the originals.

The LSTA grant will also help the MDLC create the computer system to allow people access to the collections that will form the MDL. Members also will develop methods for making more complicated objects, such as maps and personal journals, accessible to the Minnesota community. And, they will train other historians, archivists and librarians to digitize images and to prepare the information necessary to preserve history in a digital form.

The MDLC’s participating organizations include the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota, MINITEX, the St. Paul Public Library, the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University, Winona State University, St. Cloud State University, and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition welcomes suggestions for collections of photos to include in the “Minnesota Reflections” project. Applications and questions concerning this Call for Projects should be directed to the MDL Grant Coordinator: Marian Rengel, Miller Center 112D, St. Cloud State University, 720 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498 (320-308-5625, [mrregel@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mrregel@stcloudstate.edu)).

## Update on the Search for MDE Dir. Of Libraries & School Technology

Search activities continue as the MN Department of Education (MDE) works to fill the position of Director of Libraries & School Technology. Part of the Director’s responsibilities will be to lead Libraries and School Technology, the MDE unit that is Minnesota’s state library agency. MDE and the interview advisory committee are continuing the search in order to find the most highly qualified candidate.

The following is a revised timeline for filling the position:

- The posting date for the position of MDE Director of Libraries & School Technology has been extended to February 27, 2004 to allow for more applications to be submitted.
- The position is posted at the MN Department of Employee Relations web site at: <https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/093e46eb1a97f950e42aef9ed8832f7a/Results>
- An expanded search process has been implemented—all applications submitted thus far are still in the pool for consideration.
- Interviews will be conducted after the Feb. 27th closing date.

Updates about the Director search are being posted to the electronic discussion lists of the Minnesota Library Association, MEMO, the Minnesota Library Council, and to MINITEX’s general discussion list, MINITEX NEWS.

## MnLINK/ODIN/SDLN Update

Implementers of the new Ex Libris ALEPH-based integrated library systems (ILS) in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota are moving forward with their work. Another large group of MnSCU/PALS libraries is to migrate to the MnLINK ILS in early March, while preparations for migration continue in North Dakota and South Dakota.

In Minnesota, the use of the MnLINK Gateway VDX interlibrary loan software continues to grow with the CLIC libraries added as potential lenders and VDX's rota functionality implemented to help with routing of requests. Addition of the CLIC libraries to the organizations already using VDX (Minnesota public libraries and the MINITEX office) means that ILL materials are being requested directly between public libraries and academic libraries. Also, the second group of MnSCU/PALS libraries, the Gamma group, is expected to move to the MnLINK Integrated Library System (ILS) during the first week of March.

The Gamma libraries include the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Gustavus Adolphus College; Minnesota State Historical Society; Winona State University; University Center, Rochester; Riverland Community College; and South Central Technical College. These libraries will join the University of Minnesota campuses and the MnSCU/PALS beta group (St. Cloud State University, Minnesota State Law Library, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University) in using the MnLINK ILS.

The next MnLINK User Group Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 16, at St. Cloud State University. More information will be distributed via e-mail and on the MnLINK web site:

<http://www.mnlink.org/groups/User%20Groups/User-Groups-MtgDates.html>

In North Dakota, ODIN2 implementation teams are working with goal of switching to the new ALEPH software as the basis for ODIN in July of this year. Test data conversions and the first training sessions for library staff are underway. The conversion testing process involved seven libraries through the end of October: Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota, Fargo Public Library, Mandan School Libraries, North Dakota State Library, Minot State University, Leach Public Library in Wahpeton, and Carrington schools. More information about the ODIN migration is available at: <http://www.odin.nodak.edu/staff/>

In South Dakota, staff of SDLN and participating libraries are also working with data conversion, establishing tables that support ALEPH, and other implementation work. Test libraries include: Yankton High School, Rapid City Public Library, Northern State University's Williams Library and Reading Center, South Dakota State School for the Visually Impaired, and South Dakota State University's Hilton M. Briggs Library. SDLN also plans to switch to production on ALEPH this summer. More information is available at: <http://www.sdl.net/about/newils.htm>



## Bill Asp Retires after 37 Years of Service

Bill Asp, director of the Dakota County Library since 1996, retired on Dec. 12, concluding nearly 40 years of service to libraries and library users. In positions ranging from reference librarian in Hopkins, to university professor, to state librarian, to Director of the Dakota County Library, Asp led with “rampant good humor, infectious positive spirit, and prairie home integrity” (in the words of one of those honoring him at a retirement reception on Dec. 11). He was named to both the ALA Legislative Honor Roll and ALA Advocacy Honor Roll.

Asp was director of Minnesota’s State Library Agency for more than 20 years before assuming the directorship at Dakota County Library. He led the development of several state plans for library services, organized two Minnesota Governor’s Pre-White House Conferences on Library and Information Services, worked to achieve passage of state legislation for multitype library systems and for mandated public library service, and led efforts for state funding for state government libraries participation in the PALS automation system. Asp was on the faculty of the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science in the 1970s and was Director of the East Central Regional Library from 1967-1970.

He served two terms on the ALA Council and is a past president of ASCLA, the Association of State and Cooperative Library Agencies (an ALA affiliate). He has served on the Minnesota Library Council and received the Minnesota Library Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award in 2003.

During his tenure at Dakota County Library, Asp led the library system that serves one of the areas with the fastest population growth in Minnesota. The “Ask-a-Librarian” e-mail reference service was instituted, and there was enormous growth in children’s services.

Two new library buildings opened, others were remodeled and expanded, and a new bookmobile was launched. In the area of technology, Dakota County was one of the first public libraries in the US to have a technology plan and provided public access to the web on public computers in 1996. The number of personal computers for staff and the public rose from 20 in 1996 to over 360. Dakota County Library recently completed migration to the Horizon integrated library system.

Asp’s retirement plans include trips to Florida, London, and China as well as reading, taking classes, and volunteering.

## ND Joint Regional Depository Marks 35th Anniversary

Together, the North Dakota State University Library and the University of North Dakota’s Chester Fritz Library form a Regional Depository for publications distributed to depository libraries by the Government Printing Office Federal Depository Library Program. Each federal depository document is received and retained by at least one of the two libraries. The 35th anniversary of the depository was celebrated late last year.

A news release marking the anniversary noted: “The libraries of the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and North Dakota State University, Fargo, have received jointly a unique designation as a Regional Depository Library for federal government documents. So far as is known, this is the first time anywhere that a joint Regional Depository has been arranged.”

In addition to the Joint Regional Depository, North Dakota has seven partial depositories.

## IMLS Awards \$499,992 to College of St. Catherine and Saint Paul Public Library

Saint Paul Public Library, in partnership with The College of St. Catherine and The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, has received a \$499,992 grant from the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) to recruit and educate librarians for the 21st Century. As reported in *CLICnews* for the week of Nov. 10, 2003, the grant is the only one given in Minnesota as part of the \$10 million IMLS initiative. The project entitled "Teaching-Learning Library: An Urban Model of Library Education" will begin in Sept. 2004 and run through Oct. 2006.

The grant, one of 27 awarded nationwide, is part of an IMLS program designed to answer a critical shortage of library professionals and educators. Various studies have noted that large number of library directors and other library leaders are approaching retirement age, and there are not enough new professionals to assume their roles.

The program planned by Saint Paul Public Library and the College of St. Catherine will provide opportunities for persons in historically under-represented communities that reflect the diversity of the people served by the Library. Designed to work with undergraduate students, the program will encourage those who may have limited library experience to consider a career in library work. Students who receive their certificates may begin work immediately in a library or to continue their studies in library education at the College of St. Catherine. Clerical and paraprofessional library staff also will have the opportunity to earn the certificate in Urban Public Library Services.

## Southwest Minnesota State University Library Moves to Temporary Quarters

The Southwest Minnesota State University Library and its staff have moved into temporary quarters while its permanent space is renovated as part of a multi-year project that came back to life after a gubernatorial veto. Most reference material, many journals, computer stations, and furniture have been moved to the temporary space, while the general book collection, print journals published before 2001, microfilm, and older media materials remain in the Bellows Academic Building. The renovation is expected to take two years.

Relocation took place last summer. Library staff continue to serve students and non-student patrons from around the region. Materials located in the closed stacks in the permanent library space must be paged, but several retrieval trips a day help limit the wait for requested materials.

In a collaborative venture between the Library and the SMSU Graphic Arts Program, students were invited to create an artwork for the front wall of the Library's temporary space. Librarians Mary Jane Striegel and Sandra Fuhr worked with the graphic design class, and, as a news release explained, they talked "about library values, intellectual freedom, the joys of helping students trace the line of scholarship through history, and revealed the secret that the research process is rarely tidy or completely clear at the outset."

The product has a "free-flowing puzzle motif" that is "positive and energizing," and installation is underway.

The SMSU renovation was approved by the Legislature in 2002, but Governor Ventura then vetoed the expenditure. The project was funded again in 2003, with asbestos abatement beginning in the old space in September. The initial bids for renovation were awarded last month and work is to begin shortly.

## Charles Brown Leaves Hennepin County Library

Charles Brown, Director of the Hennepin County Library for 10 years, has left Minnesota to become Director of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenberg County, NC (PLCMC), which is a city-county library system. Janet Leick, Director of Administration for Hennepin County Library, will serve as Interim Director during a national search for Brown's successor.

Brown told the *StarTribune*, "I feel I'm leaving one of the nation's leading library systems for another. . . . I'm a city kid, originally from St. Louis. I've been director of three systems in my career, but I've never been director of a system with an urban center. I think there are unique challenges as well as opportunities in serving inner-city communities."

Brown assumes his new position this month. His move takes him to a system with a somewhat smaller budget than Hennepin County (Charlotte's annual budget is \$28 million, compared with Hennepin's \$36 million), but a national reputation. The system was named "Library of the Year" and "Library of the Future" in the 1990s with its 23 branches, 1.6 million volumes, and 28,000 videos and DVDs and compact disks.

Brown holds an MLS from Columbia University. His professional affiliations include president of the Public Library Association in 1991 and service on the executive board of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association from 1993-1995. Before coming to Minnesota, he directed libraries in Arlington, VA, and California.

## Transition at Washington County Library

Pat Conley has assumed her new duties as Director of the Washington County Library, succeeding Jim Wells who retired last June after 36 years of service as the Library's first and only director. Conley became Director on Sept. 2.

Wells was hired in June 1967 as a part-time employee and was promoted to full-time Library Director of Washington County that September. The Library began operation in 1967 with a single bookmobile that operated from a small office in Lake Elmo. The Lake Elmo Branch Library, which also opened in 1967 as the first Washington County Library facility, has been joined by eight other branch libraries and two associate city libraries.

Conley, who holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, previously served as Director of Policy and Communications for the MN Dept. of Health. Earlier, she worked as Manager of Intergovernmental Services for the Association of Minnesota Counties.

## New Director Named for Plum Creek Library System

Richard MacDonald, Director, Marshall Public Library, has been named Director of the Plum Creek Library System (PCLS) to replace Jody Reng, who left her post late last year to head the Timberland Library System in Washington. MacDonald, whose current library is the northern part of the PCLS area, will assume his new duties on March 15.

Milton Mitchell, formerly of Wisconsin's Indianhead Federated System, served as Interim Director during the transition.

### MINITEX's Electronic Communications

In addition to our print publications, MINITEX maintains a number of electronic communications vehicles to provide information about our programs.

The MINITEX electronic discussion group, MINITEX NEWS, will allow MINITEX users to exchange questions and answers about new technologies, MINITEX policies and procedures, and other issues. To subscribe, follow these steps:

1. Point your web browser to: <http://lists.minitex.umn.edu>
2. Click on **minitex-news** in the list
3. Provide the information requested on the information page

The MINITEX World Wide Web homepage (<http://www.minitex.umn.edu>) provides information about MINITEX services and programs and access to MINITEX publications. It also allows searchers to link to other Internet homepages.

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