What Do You Think of Our New Look?

As you can tell, the Minitex MESSENGER has had quite a facelift! Our other serial print publications (Minitex/OCLC Monthly Mailing, Reference Notes, and Resource Sharing News) have gone through similar transformations. The new designs are meant to give the publications a fresh, new look and emphasize that they all belong to the same “family.”

These changes are part of the rebranding effort that we began with the renaming of Minitex and the creation of the new Minitex logo.

Let us know what you think of our new look. (Contact Cecelia Boone, 612-624-6353, 800-462-5348, c-boon@umn.edu)

Interlibrary Loan Statistics Now Available Online

Minitex is excited to announce our new web-based interlibrary loan statistics tool, which is available on the Minitex MyLibrary Portal (https://www.minitex.umn.edu/myLibrary/). The tool enables you to view your library’s borrowing and lending Minitex ILL activity as far back as we have records available, to see interactive charts, and to export your report to view and manipulate in a spreadsheet. Reports available include monthly and yearly borrowing and lending via Minitex and MnLINK Gateway VDX system activity. A few additional reports are planned, and we welcome your suggestions for reports as well.

To get started, visit the Minitex MyLibrary Portal instructions to create your account. If you already have a MyLibrary account but do not see an option to view statistics, please contact Scott Hreha in the Minitex office (612-625-6308, 800-462-5348, hreha002@umn.edu)

Please note: These services are reserved for staff members of Minitex participating libraries.
Check out Professional Development Opportunities

Minitex will be providing access to two national level professional development opportunities during the coming year.

• The College of DuPage /Library Learning Network Teleconference Series will feature sessions on Jan. 29, Feb. 19, March 12, and April 9 on topics ranging from “Making the Best of a Shrinking Budget: Creative Practices in a New Economy” to “Information Literacy Education: A National Overview.”

• The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is offering monthly webinars on topics as diverse as data interoperability, e-resources preservation, best practices for resource sharing, and assessing success.

For more information about these opportunities, see the new issue of Reference Notes: http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/refnotes/2009/11November.pdf

Update on Minitex and MnLINK Budgets

For more information about these opportunities, see the new issue of Reference Notes: http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/refnotes/2009/11November.pdf

MnKnows - Dig Deeper @ Your Library

The final budget for Minitex and MnLINK as approved by the Minnesota Legislature, which adjourned in May, was to maintain both Minitex and MnLINK at their current appropriation levels. The Governor signed the Higher Education bill, which included those appropriations. The Governor’s later unallotment did not include Minitex or MnLINK, so current annual budgets for FY10 and FY11 continue at $5,681,000 and $400,000 respectively.

We are all aware of the current projections of continuing state budget deficits for Minnesota. We want to assure staff members of Minitex participating libraries that our primary mission of expanding access to information resources remains an important focal point for our decisions going forward.

We believe we will be able to provide current levels of service through FY11 if funding remains at current levels (in other words, I can’t predict what kind of a cut we might get in FY11). All of us will have to wait and see what transpires in the Minnesota Legislature and Governor’s Office in the 2010 and 2011 legislative sessions before we see what FY12 and FY13 will bring.

A positive development during the 2009 legislative session was that $500,000 from the Cultural Heritage Legacy Amendment was appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society for the Minnesota Digital Library, and that funding is to be shared with Minitex.

Because of the $1.25 million annual increase in funding that Minitex received from the Legislature in 2007, budget savings, and an increase in federal funds from the Minnesota State Library Agency for interlibrary loan and delivery, Minitex staff were able to increase the number of electronic resources available through the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) following our RFP process this past July. (See the ELM article on page 5 for more information).

MnKnows – Dig Deeper @ Your Library (www.mnknows.org) has become a destination for Minnesotans since its debut this past March 24. The purpose of the MnKnows portal is to give Minnesotans one-stop access to five online library services:

- MnLINK Gateway
- Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM)
- Minnesota Reflections
- AskMN
- Research Project Calculator

Over 86,000 bookmarks have been distributed to libraries, schools, and other organizations throughout Minnesota.
August, we arranged with Minnesota Public Radio to have radio spots broadcast on its all-news stations for September and October (i.e., the first two months of the school year) along with banner ads on MPR’s website and LiveStream audio websites, which appeared September-November.

Many libraries have placed a link to the MnKnows portal on their main website. Traverse des Sioux Regional Library created a tab on its main website for MnKnows, and the Mankato-based library system’s website has been the top referrer to the MnKnows website since we began monitoring referral statistics in August.

Not knowing what level of traffic to expect, we have watched as the number of visits to the MnKnows portal grew in September, October, and November. We saw the numbers dip a bit during the week when K-12 students had time off for the Education Minnesota conference – though, the teachers must have been logging on at the conference because the educationminnesota.org website showed up among the high referring sites that week. We also saw a decline during Thanksgiving week, and we expect December to show lower numbers.

While we began compiling website statistics in connection with our awareness campaign on MPR, we can provide an example of a quick snapshot of MnKnows activity from Google Analytics for the period Oct. 30-Nov. 29, 2009

- 3,316 Visits
- 4,834 Pageviews
- 1.48 Pages per Visit (of course, we expect a person will click on one of the five online services offered on the portal)
- 48% of traffic was direct from the MnKnows.org URL (1,606)
- 47% of traffic was from referring sites (1,554)
- 5% of traffic was from search engines (156)

The top referring sites were:

- Traverse des Sioux 223
- Minnesota Public Radio 151
- Marshall Lyon Library 132
- Google 120
- Cloquet Public Library 107
- MN State Law Library 90
- Ramsey County Library 66
- North Mankato Public Library 50
- Mahtomedi K12 School 36
- Fergus Falls Public Library 35

Total 1,050 (or 68% of referring sites)

MnLINK Update: Version 4.1 for MnLINK Gateway & the Gateway’s Future
Becky Ringwelski

The last few months have been busy ones for Minitex staff and staff of libraries working with the MnLINK Gateway:

Moving to Version 4.1

Both library staff and end-users have experienced changes in the MnLINK Gateway as they began using Version 4.1 of the Gateway’s supporting software this fall. The user interface has a new look and feel, and staff has seen modifications geared toward greater ease of use, including the display of the entire contents of a request on a single screen. Many of the changes were suggested by feedback that we’ve received from users.

The new version went live during the first half of October. Webinars were scheduled to discuss the changes with interlibrary loan staff of MnLINK Gateway libraries and members of the MnLINK Gateway Operations Committee.

Minitex staff have added mini-tutorials for users to assist them in learning the interface’s new features, to help them with login problems, and to help them change their profile. The basic functionality of the user interface remains the same, but the look and feel are quite different.

What’s next for MnLINK Gateway

We are investigating possible future strategies for the Gateway. Our current contract for the MnLINK Gateway software expires June 30, 2010. We will be working with OCLC on a new contract to go into effect in July 2010. This contract will be for continued use of the current ZPORTAL/VDX software. This would be annually renewable for up to five years and would allow us the option to go out for an RFP if we choose to do so. Minitex staff will explore the use of OCLC’s WorldCat Navigator and other software packages to support MnLINK Gateway activity.
MnLINK Involvement in User Group Activities

Many of you will remember that the MnLINK project was funded initially by an appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature in 1997. It had two major components: the MnLINK Gateway and the Integrated Library System (ILS). The Ex Libris Aleph Integrated Library System is in place for the University of Minnesota and for the Consortium of MnPALS Libraries. The MnLINK Gateway is a statewide virtual library that links major Minnesota libraries electronically, providing searching and interlibrary loan capabilities using OCLC’s ZPORTAL/VDX software.

Minitex staff continues to be involved in both components of the MnLINK project. Becky Ringwelski, Associate Director, is on the Aleph ILS Product Working Group for IGeLU (The International Group of Ex Libris Users). Since 2008, she has served as a module coordinator for interlibrary loan for this group. In that capacity, she is responsible for reviewing interlibrary loan enhancement requests that are raised by IGeLU members.

Minitex staff also hosted the Upper Midwest Ex Libris Users Group Meeting that took place Oct. 26-27 at the Wellstone Center in Saint Paul. This event is held every other year and is planned primarily for library staff who use Ex Libris products. This year, we had around 140 attendees during the two day event. This was a successful meeting, and the feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive. In the years when the regional user group is not held, Minitex hosts a MnLINK User Group Meeting to bring staff from Ex Libris Aleph and MnLINK Gateway libraries together.

Ringwelski also served as the President of the NAVDX (North American VDX) User Group this past year. This group meets twice a year, most recently in June. The group is kept abreast of upcoming functionality of the software through information shared by OCLC staff at the meetings. This venue also provides us the opportunity to learn about other ZPORTAL/VDX implementations. Ringwelski is on the executive committee for this group and, in that position, meets with OCLC staff to discuss future development of the ZPORTAL/VDX product and any issues that arise.

In addition, Minitex staff coordinate regularly scheduled conference calls between the Ex Libris ILS server sites in the region. Represented on the calls are staff from ODIN, SDLN, PALS, University of Minnesota, and Minitex. These calls serve to keep everyone informed about the happenings at each of the sites, especially those related to technical issues with the software. This group has held discussions related to the use of ISO for interlibrary loan between the Aleph and VDX system used on the MnLINK Gateway.

We consider our participation in these activities to be an essential component of our continued commitment to the MnLINK project.

What’s in a Name?
Minitex Document Delivery Becomes Minitex Resource Sharing

After 30 years of using the term Document Delivery to describe Minitex’s biggest unit, we have decided that a change is order. Many of the unit’s activities just don’t fit with today’s understanding of the term, Document Delivery, which often describes a commercial information provider that seeks resources for specific individuals.

Staff of our Document Delivery unit:

- generally don’t work directly with end-users -- working, in most cases, with the staff of the user’s local library,
- manage the operation of the MnLINK Gateway,
- refer requests to libraries known to hold the item and provide bibliographic verification for difficult requests,
- present training and workshops for staff members of participating libraries so they can handle their borrowing and lending duties most efficiently.

So, if Document Delivery doesn’t fit, what’s the best alternative? As Becky Ringwelski notes in “What’s In a Name?” in the newly redesigned Resource Sharing News, staff considered Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing — before settling upon the latter.

Using a definition supplied by Ted Koppel of Auto-Graphics, Inc., we understand Resource Sharing to:

include consortial reciprocal borrowing, it should include ILL, but to be relevant for the future it cannot stop there. It must include Google (and other similar) book and journal delivery efforts. It must include patron . . . provoked as well as library provoked activities. And by my definition, resource sharing should include document delivery and similar commercial services. They’re part of the continuum. (http://www.talis.com/source/blog/2006/06/what_do_we_mean_by_resource_sh.html)
This broader definition goes farther toward encompassing the functions we provide in what has to date been called the Document Delivery unit. You will see us move toward using the term Resource Sharing Unit to describe our services.

See Ringwelski’s full discussion at: (http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/rsn)

An Update on MDL Projects

The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) has had a busy autumn. Among the highlights of the work are:

1) requesting information about organizations in the state and region that can scan and digitize resources,
2) collaborating with the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) on their new legacy-funded grant program,
3) digitizing projects with our grant funding, and
4) making plans for future MDL initiatives.

- The MDL has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify professional quality scanning and digitizing resources across the state and region. Businesses that specialize in digitization may respond to the RFQ. MDL also welcomes responses from such organizations as academic libraries, historical societies, and library groups that can provide digitization services in compliance with MDL standards. Information is available at: (http://www.mndigital.org/). We will post information about the responses at the Digitizing & Metadata tab (http://www.mndigital.org/digitizing/) as it becomes available.

- MDL Outreach Coordinator Marian Rengel worked closely with grants staff at the Minnesota Historical Society as they developed guidelines for the Digital Conversion and Access portion of their Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program (http://www.mnhs.org/legacy/grants/). MHS encourages organizations considering digital projects to work closely with the Minnesota Digital Library. The grant program is funded by the new Outdoor and Cultural Heritage fund. MHS has $6.75 million to spend on grant-funded projects before June 30, 2011. Digital conversion is one of many types of projects MHS seeks to fund.

- The Minnesota Digital Library has agreed to provide access to the public through its Minnesota Reflections (http://reflections.mndigital.org/) to approved projects from qualified grant applicants. The MDL is also interested in projects that seek to digitize historical resources of many types including newspapers and oral histories, as well as the photographs, documents, and maps that we have been digitizing for six years now.

- Organizations interested in combining MHS legacy funding with Minnesota Reflections access should work closely with Rengel in the planning phases. Contact her at mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu.

- The MDL has also begun working with the state’s regional library directors as they discuss spending some of the legacy funding they have received on digitization projects. The MDL hopes to continue to expand these discussions to provide expertise and access on digitization projects.

- The Minnesota Digital Library received Library Services and Technology Act grant funding for 2009-2010 from State Library Services, a unit of the Minnesota Department of Education, to continue its digitizing work with organizations across the state. We have brought 15 projects into Minnesota Reflections since July. New contributors include Nobles, Kandiyohi, and Fillmore county historical societies; Washington County - Survey and Land Management Division; and the Springfield Area Historical Society. Continuing contributors include Pope and Crow Wing county historical societies, Hennepin County, Stillwater and St. Paul public libraries, the Basilica of St. Mary; the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and others.

- MDL continues to accept applications and encourages organizations to apply now. Contact Rengel to discuss your projects. The application form and project description are available at the Minnesota Digital Library homepage.

The Minnesota Digital Library is in the very earliest stages of discussing the state’s needs for long-term storage and preservation of digital resources. Organizations have been sharing their needs and concerns with MDL representatives, and the MDL is discussing possible ways of meeting this growing need.
Statewide Electronic Resources Mean More Databases & Additional Options for MinitexRegion Libraries

Mary Parker

Library users and staff throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota are benefiting from the new group of EBSCO, Gale Group, and OCLC FirstSearch databases that became available throughout the region on July 1. ProQuest and Encyclopaedia Britannica databases are also available in Minnesota and North Dakota.

And, the Minitex group subscription to OCLC First Search means that libraries and schools throughout the region are eligible for important new options provided by OCLC: CONTENTdm Quick Start and WorldCat Local Quick Start.

The new electronic resource packages, which will be available for three years, are made available through the joint support of Minitex, State Library Services of the Minnesota Department of Education, Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN), the North Dakota State Library, South Dakota Library Network (SDLN), and the South Dakota State Library. The databases were recommended by the Minitex Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force as a result of the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued in 2008-2009.

A full list of the resources is available in an announcement on the ELM Blog: (http://blog.lib.umn.edu/minitex/elm/2009/06/new_elm_databases_announced.html)

CONTENTdm Quick Start & WorldCat Local Quick Start

The Quick Start options for CONTENTdm and WorldCat Local give libraries a chance to make aspects of these powerful tools available to users.

OCLC’s CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software helps libraries make their digital collections available to local users and users across the Web. No matter the original format of the digitized material, CONTENTdm can handle the storage, management, and delivery of digital collections. The CONTENTdm Quick Start option provides libraries with:

- The CONTENTdm software hosted by OCLC,
- Three Project Clients for building digital collections,
- 10GB of storage for up to 3,000 digital items.

WorldCat Local Quick Start provides a single search result that delivers a library’s resources and those of other WorldCat libraries. WorldCat Local quick start offers libraries:

- Display of the local library’s holdings first in search results, followed by the holdings of other WorldCat libraries;
- Local branding of a WorldCat search box, URL, and user interface;
- Links to an existing OpenURL resolver for access from the over 58 million article citations in WorldCat.org to the online full text to which libraries subscribe;
- Integration of existing OCLC delivery/interlibrary loan services (WorldCat Resource Sharing, ILLiad);
- Interoperability with a single local library catalog for real-time item availability information and place holds;

For more information about CONTENTdm Quick Start and WorldCat Local Quick Start, see the full descriptions published in Reference Services Blog on Oct. 20: http://blog.lib.umn.edu/minitex/reference/ or the Minitex/OCLC Mailing (http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/oclc/2009/10OctoberNovember.pdf)

Directorship Changes at Minitex-Area Libraries & Library Systems

**Carla Powers** became Manager of Duluth Public Library in May. She came to Duluth from Wisconsin where she was director of the Rice Lake Public Library for seven years. Earlier, she had worked at the Eau Claire and Superior Public Libraries. Powers earned her library degree from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2000. As reported in June’s *Streaming News* published by State Library Services, Powers was a distance education student at a time when online courses were relatively new and did most of her coursework from her home in northern Wisconsin.

**Tom Nichol** is the new Executive Director of Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC), the non-profit federation of the libraries of eight private colleges and universities in the Twin Cities. Nichol, a long-time staff member of the libraries of College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University, joined the CLIC staff on June 1. Nichol joined the St. John’s University staff in 1972 and held positions ranging from cataloger to Director of Technical Services to Acting Director during his time there. Nichol holds an undergraduate degree in German from Carleton College; master’s degrees in German from Harvard, theology from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and library science from the University of Denver; and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in library science.

**Wendy Wendt** is the new Director of the Grand Forks (ND) Public Library. Wendt, who previously served as director of the Marshall-Lyon County Library in southwestern Minnesota, assumed her new position on June 1. Wendt is immediate past president of the Minnesota Library Association. She succeeds Dennis Page, the longtime director of Grand Forks Public, who passed away last year. Wendt earned her MLS from the University of North Texas and her undergraduate degree from NDSU.

**Dayle Zelenka** became director of Traverse des Sioux (TdS) Regional Public Library System and the Southcentral Minnesota Inter-Library Exchange (SMILE) multitype library cooperative on June 1. Zelenka will work with the TdS and SMILE governing boards, which have identical memberships, to create a new administrative structure for the two organizations, which have the same jurisdictional boundaries. The board decided to explore management efficiencies when SMILE Director Nancy Steele announced her intention to retire this year.

Zelenka spent the past 13 years at North Park University’s Brandel Library in Chicago, where he served as Director of Technical Services and Systems. Zelenka has a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies from Grinnell College, Master of Library Science from Indiana University, and Masters in Business Administration and Business Management from North Park University.

**Dorothy Liegl Wins 2009 Distinguished Service Award from MPLA**

Dorothy Liegl, who over her 36-year career at the South Dakota State Library held many jobs including state librarian, has been awarded the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Mountain/Plains Library Association (MPLA). Liegl retired from the State Library in October 2008 and remains active as a consultant in the MPLA region.

Lieg’s position titles at the State Library included cataloger, head of technical services, film and video librarian, director of library development, and deputy state librarian, before she became State Librarian. She was a grant writer, federal grant coordinator, collector and disseminator of statistical data, and continuing education presenter. She has been active in state, regional and national organizations including SDLA, MPLA, PLA, and ASCLA.
Hadley Becomes Director of St. Paul Public Library

Kit Hadley is the new Director of the St. Paul Public Library, succeeding Melanie Huggins who accepted the position of Executive Director of the Richland County Public Library in Columbia, SC. Hadley, who served as Director of the Minneapolis Public Library before its merger with the Hennepin County Library, assumed her new position in August.

Huggins led the St. Paul Public Library for three years after working at Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg, County, NC, for nearly 10 years. Her new position takes Huggins home; a Columbia, SC, native, she worked at the Richland County Public Library before earning her MLS from the University of South Carolina. While at St. Paul Public, Huggins and her staff implemented St. Paulitics, a program to engage city residents in the democratic process as St. Paul prepared to host the 2008 Republican National Convention.

Hadley had served as Executive Director of Heading Home Minnesota, an umbrella organization of state, regional, and city/county programs that address issues facing the homeless, since her tenure as head of Minneapolis Public Library from 2003-2007.

Before directing the Minneapolis Public Library, Hadley was commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. She earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and has a bachelor of arts in urban studies from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA.

Golden Retires As Director of the MN State Law Library

Director since 2002 and a staff member since 1983, Barbara Golden retired from her position as Director of the Minnesota State Law Library on June 9. She began her work at the Library as Head of Outreach Services and served as Electronic Services Librarian before becoming Director.

Golden served as president of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL), on the Executive Board of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and chaired the AALL State, Court, and County Law Libraries Specialist Interest Section. Golden received local and national awards, including the MALL Law Librarianship Award (1985), Minnesota Lawyer’s 2008 Unsung Heroes Award, and the AALL Bethany J. Ochal Award (2009) for distinguished service to the profession. She has taught legal bibliography as an adjunct professor in the St. Catherine University’s Library and Information Science Masters Degree program.

Golden received her undergraduate degree from Hamline University, her library degree from the University of Minnesota, and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

Judy Rehak is serving as Acting State Law Librarian while a national search will be conducted to identify Golden’s successor.

MN and ND Librarians Named ALA Emerging Leaders

Cody Hanson, St. Paul; Cynthia Matthias, Minneapolis; and Reagen Thalacker of Jamestown, ND, have been named to ALA’s 2010 Emerging Leaders program. The three are among 100 library staff selected for the 2010 program, which provides leadership development training and experiences for new library workers throughout the US.

Hanson, who is Technology Librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries, Twin Cities, and adjunct professor at the St. Catherine University MLIS program, was sponsored by LITA, while Matthias, Teen Services Librarian, Hennepin County Library, was sponsored by the Minnesota Library Association. Thalacker is the Librarian at USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown.

The Emerging Leaders program, which is in its fourth year, provides participants with opportunities to participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.

For a complete list of this year’s Emerging Leaders see: http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/abouthrdr/EL_2010Class_Final.pdf
Merger-related Changes Continue for Hennepin County (MN) Library

Library patrons can now search a single catalog for information about the collections of the former Minneapolis Public Library and Hennepin County Library – a single catalog that contains records for 5 million items of 41 Twin Cities-area libraries. The catalog, which became available Aug. 27, contains 1.5 records from Minneapolis Public’s former Innovative Interfaces-based catalog that were merged into Hennepin County’s SirsiDynix Horizon-based ILS.

The former Hennepin County catalog had 300,000 unique titles and 2 million items; the Minneapolis libraries’ catalog contained records of 1.3 million unique titles and 3 million items. The merger gives library patrons access to the merged collections, which form the 12th largest library collection in the U.S.

Prior to Aug. 27, users of the two libraries, which merged in Jan. 2008, had to search two separate catalogs to gain information about the full collection.

Library patrons may use their existing library cards – regardless of whether they were issued by Minneapolis Public or Hennepin County. All Minneapolis Public patron account information was moved into the Hennepin County system.

The merged library’s website contains an FAQ about the new catalog, which included the following two notes, which convey some of the complexity of merging two large, rich library collections:

- The combined catalog [has] . . . entries from two formerly separate library systems, each with slightly different cataloging procedures, so you will see some titles where the copies may have different descriptions of where to find them on the shelf, or different kinds of call numbers (Dewey, Library of Congress).

- All the information you need to find your item will be in the catalog entry. If you are looking for an item on the shelf, take note of the information for the item that’s in the library you’re visiting.

ECRL Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

East Central Regional Library System, Minnesota’s oldest regional public library system, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this fall. The Cambridge-based library system, which includes Isanti, Mille Lacs, Pine, Aitkin, Kanabec, and Chisago counties, consists of 14 library branches, outreach programs, a materials budget of $397,500, and circulation that topped the million mark in 2008.

The anniversary celebration began with a reception at the Cambridge Public Library last month. Current Director Barbara Misselt; Bob Boese, who directed the system from 1986-2007; Bill Asp, former state librarian who was ECRL director from 1967-1970; State Senator Rick Olseen, and Suzanne Miller, current state librarian, attended the session along with more than 150 library staff, library patrons, and other ECRL supporters.

ECRL has 65,000 library cardholders. The System’s online catalog has 389,000 items, and cardholders can request items through the online catalog from other branches. ECRL provides delivery service to bring requested items to a cardholder’s local library.

Additional events were held at all ECRL branch libraries. See http://www.ecrlib.org for more information.
Minitex Office Holiday Closings

The Minitex office will be closed on the following days, which are University holidays:

January 18
March 19

MN Legislative Reference Library Receives Innovation Award

The Minnesota Special Library Association presented its 2009 Innovation Award to the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library for its online gubernatorial veto database. The database provides information dating from 1939 to the present and can be searched by date and the governor’s name.

Reference librarian Betsy Haugen verified information about the vetoes, added descriptions for each line item, and determined how inconsistencies and special situations should be represented. Library aides scanned veto messages, and Mike Schatz, computer services, programmed the information retrieval application and created the Website. The database is available at: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/Vetoes/Vetoes.asp

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes the Revisor’s Office has linked the scanned veto messages to the session laws database increasing bringing these resources together for researchers and citizens.

MN and SD Public Libraries Win LJ Star Ratings

Seven Minnesota public libraries and two in South Dakota have received star ratings in Library Journal’s second round of national rating of public libraries. The Minnesota libraries included St. Paul Public Library and the public libraries in Coleraine, Comfrey, Ely, Grand Rapids, and Pelican Rapids and Runals Memorial Public Library in Edgerton. The South Dakota libraries that received the honor are the Centerville Community Library and Hazel L. Meyer Memorial Library in De Smet.

For more information about these award-winning libraries, see:

Minitex’s Electronic Communications

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

The Minitex electronic discussion group, Minitex News, allows 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.

Minitex Messenger

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Check out the MESSENGER’S new look!

Start the new year with updates on the MnLINK Gateway, ELM, MnKnows, MDL, and other Minitex topics.