REVISED TODAY

MINITEX Policy Advisory Council Meeting
March 7, 2008

AGENDA ITEM # 4

3. Minnesota Digital Library (Umbrella Concept):
   MnLINK Gateway; ELM; Minnesota Reflections

NEW ITEMS

Electronic Library for Minnesota

- We implemented a change in access to the ELM Portal: elm4you.org the beginning of January.
  We have a subscription to a service that provides a listing of Information Service Providers (ISP) in Minnesota and we have arranged access to the Portal by checking against one of these ISPs. If the user is using one of the registered ISPs, they are taken directly to the ELM Portal and they do not have to enter their public library barcode. Initial reaction is positive since it is making it easier to access ELM resources especially in those areas where libraries do not have remote access capability. In these areas, people had to use ELM from within the school or public library.
- Unintended consequences are:
  - We will have to count statistical usage differently --- this method of access produces searches by city of the ELM databases. No breakdown on which database. See attachment of usage by city from the beginning of January until February 27th.
  - We will encourage libraries to maintain their IP authentication by individual databases which require a user to authenticate themselves as a registered borrower of the library they are using.
  - We will encourage libraries to add the ELM Portal on their webpage so users can go directly if they choose to do so.

Research Project Calculator – new improved version implemented.

Comments are positive. For example:

School: Monticello High School
County: Wright
The support materials are tremendous. Teachers need to use this resource. Their students will benefit from the opportunity. Thanks for making it.

MnLINK Gateway

- NEW ITEM. Report distributed this morning
- Stories --- note the comments being left by Gateway users --- some negative but most are positive. We need to determine how to address the negative comments since these are excellent feedback issues that we need to hear.

Minnesota Reflections - I have included a recent report from Marian Rengel,
Outreach Coordinator, Minnesota Digital Library Coalition
MnLINK Gateway Update (Becky Ringwelski)

The MnLINK Gateway went into production in January 2003. At that time it was owned by Fretwell-Downing Informatics. It has since been acquired by OCLC and is now integrated with their other product offerings. The Gateway uses the ZPORTAL search software and the VDX interlibrary loan (ILL) system. There are currently twenty-four server sites on the MnLINK Gateway serving the vast majority of academic and public libraries in Minnesota. The interlibrary loan request traffic on the Gateway has continued to climb since its inception reaching a total of 514,460 requests in FY2007 compared to 375,200 the previous year. This represents a thirty-seven percent increase.

In mid-January the MnLINK Gateway ZPORTAL/VDX software was upgraded to version 3.2.2. The upgrade process started on Tuesday, January 15 and the system was accessible again on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 16. The upgrade included bug fixes as well as new functionality related to NCIP (National Circulation Interchange Protocol) and filtering of borrowing requests based on publication date and cost. The latter can be used to facilitate a purchase-on-demand program for interlibrary loan staff.

In mid-March the servers that host the MnLINK Gateway software will be moved from their current site in Kansas City to the OCLC server base in Dublin, Ohio. This is another aspect of the integration of the software with other OCLC services. This move should result in improved server support for the Gateway.

NCIP testing between the VDX Interlibrary loan software and the SirsiDynix Unicorn automated system has continued. The final pieces are expected to be added to the software in the coming weeks. It will then be available for production use by Unicorn sites. The next phase of testing NCIP functionality will be with the Innovative Interfaces, Inc. automated system. Work on that has already begun.

For those of you interested in the status of ISO capability between Aleph ILL and VDX ILL – testing between the vendors has been underway for a few months now. The initial testing confirmed known issues with the Aleph ILL implementation of ISO. Ex Libris has made changes and testing has been resumed. We’ll keep you posted to developments in this area.

Becky Ringwelski attended the OCLC ZPORTAL/VDX User group meeting at the mid-winter American Library Association meeting in Philadelphia. A key agenda item was a presentation by OCLC staff on the future of the ZPORTAL/VDX products. The VDX interlibrary loan system is being marketed by OCLC and will be included in the OCLC resource sharing user group meeting topics at ALA. The ZPORTAL interface will be replaced by a WorlCat.org style user interface sometime in the next two years. The 2008 release of ZPORTAL will be the last one offered with enhancements. The VDX ILL system will continue to provide ILL management to the front-end search product. There will be a release of the VDX software in fall 2008 that includes significant enhancements to the staff user interface. We will be keeping libraries up-to-date on developments in this area.
Project update
Marian Rengel, Minnesota Digital Library Outreach Coordinator
February 7, 2008

Minnesota Reflections
- More than 20,000 digital copies of primary resources
  - Photos, negatives, postcards, artwork,
  - Plat books and plat maps, geological survey maps, city map collections from Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul
  - Handwritten and printed documents from state government, county historical societies, private foundations
  - Transcriptions for all handwritten documents
- More than 7,000 objects in the digitization process
- Funding still available for another 2,000 objects
- New organizations
  - Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation
  - Minnesota Geologic Survey
  - Waseca County Historical Society
  - Dodge County Extension Service
  - Crow Wing County Historical Society
  - Basilica of Saint Mary
  - Jackson County Historical Society
  - Stewartville Area Historical Society
  - University of St. Thomas – Archbishop Ireland Library
- Use of Minnesota Reflections is growing dramatically (see chart below)
  - 184,416 page views in January 2008
- Libraries providing collections
  - Stewartville Public Library (working with Stewartville Area Historical Society)
  - Minneapolis Public Library
  - St. Paul Public Library
- Social Side of Reflections allows people to join in the information sharing process.
  - http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/msn,440
  - http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/nico,1159
- What you can do
  - Acquaint reference librarians with Minnesota Reflections
  - Great materials here for students of all ages,
  - Research for classes, genealogy, even community planning
  - Feature Minnesota Reflections on your Web site
  - Make collection development recommendations to MDL Outreach Coordinator
  - Encourage organizations in your areas to consider contributing objects
  - Encourage organizations to work with the MDL to learn about digitizing

Other Minnesota Digital Library areas of discussion/development
- Searching other collections – exploring ways to connect collections and present search results
- Making “Minnesota Reflections” resources available through the MnLINK Gateway
- Making “Minnesota Reflections” available through OCLC’s WorldCat database
- Educating people in digitizing best practices, metadata creation
- Building/using networks of people interested in developing the MDL as a long-term resource
- Long-term sustainable funding for this initiative