7. Future Developments that could affect the MINITEX Region – An Open Discussion

The following documents are being distributed in advance on February 29, 2008 for discussion on March 7th. These relate to future developments affecting libraries in the the MINITEX Region.

1. “Information isn’t reserved for books”.
2. End-User Update 2008: New Findings from Outsell’s User Profile Research.
3. “Open Minds, Open Books, OpenSource”. A brief update on some developments that can affect our future software purchases and development.
   This study was commissioned by the British Library and the Joint Information Systems Committee in the United Kingdom. It may be of interest to library directors and public library boards since it attempts to describe the behaviour of the researcher in the future --- remember that many independent researchers use public libraries for their research. The front two pages are a commentary from a Blog by Nate Anderson that you might read to give you a summary of the report. What’s interesting is to place this report in context with some of the findings in the Outsell Report in item #2 above.
   This sort of shows us that no matter what one has developed in the past, someone today or tomorrow can come up with something either similiar or what they would consider better or cheaper.
   “Advances in information technology demand that AULs (Associate University Librarians) and Assistant Directors develop new solutions, evolve to meet changing user expectations, and prepare leaders for the future. Whether we are in technical services, public services, collection development, or information technology, we must develop cross-functional vision that makes internal organizational structures more flexible, agile, and effective. We must move beyond the borders and transcend the traditional library organization. Taiga is the land between the tundra and deciduous forests and grasslands. Taiga is about change, a place of shifting boundaries.”

   The question remains: given the next few years, what would you like to see in place in the three state region by December 2010?

   a. January – March 2008 (MN Bonding session)
   b. April – June 2008
   d. October – December 2008
   e. January – March 2009 (MN Legislative budget session for FY10 & FY11)
   f. April – June 2009
   g. July – September 2009
   h. October – December 2009
   i. January – March 2010
   j. April – June 2010
   k. July 2010 – September 2010
   l. October – December 2010