Reports included below are:
- State Universities, Joan Roca
- Public Libraries Report, Mary Lukkarila
- Community Colleges, Anne Ryan
- Private Colleges, Dan Gjelten
- U of M Twin Cities Campus, Wendy Pradt Lougee
- Multi-Type, Multi-County Library Systems, Ruth Solie
- Regional System Libraries, Peg Werner
- University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus, Bill Sozansky
- State Government Libraries, Karla Gedell
- County Libraries, Vanessa Birdsey
- Technical Colleges, Pat Akerman

State Universities Report
Joan Roca, Minnesota State University, Mankato
June 6, 2008

Metropolitan State University -David Barton, Director
Our credit-bearing Information Studies and Research Skills course continues to grow in popularity. We now offer seven sections per semester in both in-person and online versions. In addition to our resident faculty, we are employing adjunct instructors from other institutions including Hamline University, Inver Hills Community College - and even MINITEX! This past year faculty librarians also taught courses in non-library areas such as Women's Studies and the Masters in Liberal Arts program.

School Library Journal is now publishing reviews of new YA books that are written by participants in our "Teens Know Best" group. This program, which was initiated and is managed by Associate Professor Adela Peskorz, is a cooperative undertaking with the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library which is located in our Library and Learning Center. It involves about two dozen high school students who receive free galley publications from the publishers to read and review.

We will be posting a vacancy soon for a Reference and Instruction Librarian. I am looking for someone who will be able to focus on providing library and information services to students only take online courses or who attend classes primarily in Minneapolis or "Midway" or other sites remote from our physical library in St. Paul.

We recently hired our first-ever university archivist.

Bemidji State University -Stu Rosselet, Interim Director
No report at this time.

Minnesota State University Moorhead -Brittney Goodman, Director
MSU Moorhead received capitol bonding funding of $400,000 for the design planning for the renovation of Livingston Lord Library. RFP's are currently being sought and designer interviews are this summer. In anticipation of the library redesign, and in order to create space for a library and technology commons area, Livingston Lord Library is currently undergoing a weeding/deselection process of some of its government documents, legal reference materials, and print periodicals collections.

Travis Dolence, Distance Learning Librarian, has been named to the new "Library and Information Services Editorial Board" for MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching).

Stacy Voeller, Electronic Resources Librarian, has been named Assistant Editor for ALA's _Cognotes_ publication.
Carol Sibley, Curriculum Librarian, received a grant award from Carnegie Whitney, to create a bibliography of the "Best Read Aloud Picture Books." Several librarians will be attending the American Library Association Conference in Anaheim, California.

Belle Nelson, Instruction Librarian, attended the Midwest Library Technology Conference.

Finally, the Library is in the action planning stage after its 6-year program review and external evaluation.

**Minnesota State University, Mankato -Joan Roca, Director**

The Library received the annual EBSCO subscriptions budget analysis for the coming year. EBSCO is estimating rate increases from publishers ranging from 9% to 11%. Given the declining value of the dollar: even though only 1/3 of our journals are non-US titles they alone amount to 2/3 of the bill.

Following earlier recommendations from R2 Consulting, we are remodeling our main staff work areas with redesigned work spaces, we are also creating six new group study rooms for students, and offices for librarians.

Responding to the needs of students and faculty who have summer classes the Library has established new hours for Saturdays during the summer sessions.

This spring the Library held its first reception for MSU Mankato authors who have published a book in the last two years. The event had campus wide impact and was very well received by the 33 authors who were honored.

Bobby Bothmann, Electronic Access/Catalog Librarian, taught the "Introduction to Description" MOTSE (Minnesota Opportunities for Technical Services Excellence) workshop at Hennepin County Public Library at Ridgedale on 4 April 2008.

Monika Antonelli, Reference/Instruction/Outreach Librarian, was recently elected to a third term as ALA Councilor At Large.

Joe Holtermann, currently at Notre Dame, has been hired as Acquisitions Librarian.

**Southwest Minnesota State University -Kathleen Ashe, Interim Director**

No report at this time.

**St. Cloud State University -Kristi Tornquist, Director**

The SCSU library expects to have stable collections budgets next year.

We continue to expand our efforts to support our new doctoral programs on campus.

We are completing searches for the following positions: Collections Librarian, E-Resources Librarian, and Associate Dean for Library Services.

We are converting some of our traditional shelving to more compact shelving this summer.

**Winona State University -Larry Hardesty, Retiring Director**

Tom Bremer, Director of Public Services at North Dakota State University, has accepted the position as Dean of the Library at Winona State University. He will be starting in the position July 7th.

I will be retiring (again) as of June 30th and returning to Nebraska. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues in the state of Minnesota and wish them the very best.

Submitted by Joan Roca, State Universities Representative
Cloquet Public Library -Mary Lukkarila, Director

Our computer program for seniors took an interesting turn this spring. Rather than having courses at the library, we went to an assisted living facility to have classes there and then a course at a nursing home. Our computers are into their fourth year now and purchased with LSTA grant money for training senior citizens. Some batteries have needed replacement and they are slower than newer models. The seniors don’t mind the slowness, with one noting that they understand, the seniors are slow as well. The program is very popular; the down side is not enough time to have classes.

We also took notes during PLA and plan to make some changes at our library with information we received at programs and exhibit demos.

Duluth Public Library -David Ouse, Acting Director

The remodeling project at the main downtown library is nearing completion. The top two floors were reopened to the public on May 1 with new carpet, a new reference desk, and a renovated computer lab, and new public furniture was delivered on May 22. Work began on the lower level, which houses Technical Services, the Business Office, and meeting rooms, on May 1. Carpeting has now been completed on that level, and the renovation work on the two meeting rooms should be done in a week or two.

DPL’s Youth Services Manager Judy Sheriff is one of 42 people nationwide to be selected by the National League of Cities and United Way of America to participate in the Cities and United Ways Leadership Academy School Readiness Learning Opportunity. The event will be held June 26-27, 2008, in Minneapolis.

Duluth Public Library Board President Andrew Slade’s book, Skiing the North Shore: A guide to cross country trails in Minnesota’s spectacular Lake Superior region, won Honorable Mention in the Nonfiction, Memoir category at the 20th annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards on May 18.

Excelsior Library -Jane Stein, Adult Services Librarian

We are very excited to announce our One Book One Community adult read for this summer for the South Lake Minnetonka area. It is Kevin Kling’s The Dog Says How. The discussion of this title will be held on Monday, July 2 at 7:00 pm at the Excelsior Library. To culminate the event Mr.Kling will be here on Wednesday, August 13 at 7:00 at SouthShore Center (5735 Country Club Road Shorewood Minnesota). He will make a presentation and autograph books. His book and CDs will be available for sale that evening through Excelsior Bay Books.

Fergus Falls Public Library -Walt Dunlap, Director

Fergus Falls Public Library is again lobbying hard for expansion, with consultant Ron McGriff recommending 12,565 square feet be added to the 12,700 square foot, 1986 structure. The roughly $5 million Library project is competing against a new hockey facility, a police station and public works projects. McGriff did his original space needs assessment in 1998 and an updated study was submitted in January of this year.

LaCrescent Public Library -LaVonne Beach, Director

“We” have been very busy at LaCrescent Public Library developing programs with our Community Education program. Two of the programs are:

Coffee and Conversations -Neighbors in Action and the LaCrescent Public Library are teaming up to offer an opportunity for seniors to get together, have coffee and reminisce. The group meets at the library every Tuesday morning from 8:30am – 10:00am. Coffee and donuts/muffins are provided. Seniors can bring their own coffee
cup and leave it at the library or cups are provided. It is an informal gathering, fairly unstructured and is a get
time to get together with old friends and new friends. Rides are provided through the Neighbors in Action
program for those needing them.

Saturday morning workshops for Family, Friend & Neighbor Caregivers  -Early Child Family Education and the
LaCrescent Public Library will be hosting a series of monthly workshops geared towards childcare providers
who are not licensed. The free workshops will begin in September and will be at the library. Each workshop
will be centered around a seasonal theme and participates will have hands on activities that will help them bring
books to life for their charges. Through a grant with Child Care Resource and Referral and local business
participation, each participate will have a resource guide, picture books, handouts and a plethora of ideas to take
home with them to promote early literacy. The ultimate goal is that these caregivers will value the library as a
resource for books and ideas; ECFE as a resource for them as well as early childhood activities; and Child Care
Resource and Referral for support services which may include information on caregiving, first aid/safety
training, and free supplies.

**Fergus Falls Public Library  -Pauline Siem, County Library Director**

2008 Summer Reading Program: begins in June, with special programs planned in branch libraries. Beautiful
Bats with Stephanie Reynolds from Eco Education of St Paul will be in Minnesota Lake & Frost Library; The
Zoo Man of Sleepy Eye will be in Kiestner Library; The Traveling Art Tour Exhibit will be at Bricelyn Library
over the 4th of July weekend.

2008 Goal: focuses on public awareness – there is a Birthday Party planned in branch libraries to celebrate
Minnesota’s 150 years of statehood for participants of summer reading program & their parents. Final prize
drawings earned by the readers will be distributed at the party. A TEEN Reader program is being introduced for
the first time this summer – sponsored by local service groups. Readers will exchange 15 pages of reading for
theater and bowling passes.

**County-wide Survey:** analysis was conducted by consulting librarian Mark Ranum. This analysis will serve as
one of the development tools for long & short range planning. The county & city librarians were able to attend
the Public Library Association (PLA) conference held in Minneapolis. Two of the librarians received
honoriaiums from Southcentral Minnesota Inter-Library Exchange (SMILE). Let me just add, the conference
was excellent with practical ideas to try locally.

**Special Project:** Faribault County Soil & Water Conservation District’s Urban Outreach Specialist Jessica
Matthew conducted a program on raingardens at Wells. Eleven (11) books titled, ‘The Blue Thumb Guide to
Raingardens’ were purchased through a Minnesota Pollution Control grant project & distributed to each library
in the county. Each library set up a display area drawing attention to the book accompanied by a large colorful
poster supplied by Jessica. We tried the just-in-time approach by having the books shelf ready for public
checkout prior to the community event with a two-week window to work with. The county librarian applied
donor tags in all the copies, sent one RUSH copy in for original cataloging at the regional library & distributed
the remaining copies to all libraries using the courier delivery service.

**Gilbert Public Library  -Amy Hay**

I guess I'd just like to report about the visit of the Sesquicentennial Mosaic artists to Gilbert on May 1st and 2nd.
All of the students from Gilbert's Nelle Shean Elementary (217 students) and the art students from Eveleth-
Gilbert Junior High were able to participate in the creation of the letter E (in the word Minnesota) for the
Sesquicentennial Mosaic, which will be approximately 20' x 6' when completed and will be permanently
installed on the Food Building at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul in September. The artists are only visiting 4
locations outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Gilbert also offered a preschool storytime every Wednesday from January to May, and is participating in the
R.E.A.D. (reading to dogs) program, and it is very popular and successful.
Northfield Public Library  -Lynne Young, Director
We're starting our 7th season of "Books & Stars" - our bookmobile and the City's Showmobile (a portable band shell) go out to parks around town with family-oriented programming. These are the main programs for our SRP but they reach a lot more people by virtue of the fact that we take them out into the community. This year we received a SEMAC (Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council) grant to pay for the performers. Programs begin in mid-June and happen once a week until mid August.

We're also in the process of doing a site feasibility study for a library expansion on this site (going south from the Carnegie building.)

We're finishing up a new long-range operational plan.

We're also excited that the City of Lonsdale (about 20 miles west of Northfield on Hwy 19) is planning to set up a new library. We're (the Northfield Public Library) and SELCO are working with them. Lonsdale is a community of about 2600 people.

Rochester Public Library  -Audrey Betcher, Director
We've been a very busy place. Besides gearing up for summer reading, gaming in the library, and continuing to have increases in circulation and library visits, we have installed automated materials handling with FKI. We are also in the process of migrating from SirsiDynix Unicorn to Symphony. We are part of the AskMN pilot group offering 24/7 reference service.

We are also working very closely with the school districts within our service area to implement Tutor.com in the fall.

We are also partnering with the United Way and the Rochester Park and Recreation Department to put early literacy information near playground areas.

Submitted by Mary Lukkarila, Public Libraries Representative

Community Colleges Report
Anne Ryan, Library Director, Minneapolis Community & Technical College
June 6, 2008

Century College  -Bonnie Oldre, Library Director
Century College is moving into its new spaces this summer on the first floor of the Science/Library building on the east side of Century Avenue. The new building features a coffee shop in the lobby; original art work, designed by Century faculty, in the library and on the second floor; and a fireplace in the library.

Century College historically was two separate institutions, Northeast Metro Technical College and Lakewood Community College, until it merged in 1996 and became Century College. Although we considered ourselves to be one library, we have continued to have two separate locations, the East Library and the West Library. Until recently, we also continued to use two separate classification systems, both Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress.

When it became clear that we would combine, we began to catalog all items as Library of Congress. As part of the merger process, the West Campus Library Dewey collection will be converted to Library of Congress call numbers. MINITEX contract catalogers will be helping with this process. We hope to have the collections fully integrated by the end of the summer.

Minneapolis Community & Technical College  -Anne Ryan, Retiring Library Director
Enrollment is up 12% at MCTC over this time last year. The Power of You program, which provides scholarships for any student graduating from a Minneapolis high school to attend our college for the first two years, has doubled its enrollment from last year. We had over 300 students accepted in the program in Fall 2006 and 85% completed their first year. One year later, nearly 600 students were admitted. US Bancorp recently donated a generous $100,000 to support scholarships for the Power of You, and this spring the Minnesota Legislature approved $600,000 in one-time funds for this program. The money will be for three institutions: St. Paul College, Minneapolis Community & Technical College and Metropolitan State University.

MCTC’s Library Information Technology program has migrated to all online classes with the idea of attracting students from outside the metro area. The degree and certificate programs are designed to educate and train people for work at the library paraprofessional level (also known as library technicians or associates). For detailed information, go to http://www.minneapolis.edu/academics/areaofstudy.cfm?aos_id=88.

Anne Ryan is retiring this summer after nearly 20 years at MCTC. Virginia Heinrich will be filling out her term on the MINITEX Policy Advisory Council as the community college representative until June 2009.

Submitted by Anne Ryan, Community Colleges Representative

Private Colleges Report
Dan Gjelten, University of St. Thomas
June 6, 2008

CLIC
The CLIC libraries did a fast track review of discovery layers including Endeca, Primo, Aquabrowser, OCLC WorldCat and Encore as possible enhancements to the CLIC ILS (we are a III system.) The investigating group recommended that the consortium seriously consider Primo and Encore for purchase and will continue to look into those in the coming months. The following criteria were identified as key to the assessment of any new system:

Is faceted organization of results available?

What do we know about the relevancy logarithm?
  Ranking, Authorities, Influence, etc.

How do connections to and display of other data work?
  Federated Searching, Content DM, etc.

What patron initiated functions are available?
  Printing, marking, saving, exporting, etc.

How does it connect to and display other forms?
  ILL, Requests, Holds, Refworks

Does it provide real time availability status?

Does it employ FRBR?

Does it provide spelling corrections truncation, and/or did you mean?
What social functions are available?
tagging, reviewing, rating, list sharing

What do we know about back end functionality?
Customization, Statistics, etc.

These criteria are very similar to those listed in the draft report (release on 4/28/08) of the ILS/Discovery systems group convened by the Digital Library Federation. More to follow on this CLIC effort.

University of St. Thomas -Dan Gjelten, Library Director

USTs Ireland Library was awarded MN Reflections Digital Library grants for the development of digital versions of two 19th century collections: Imprints in Native Language common to MN (materials by missionaries on working with native languages in Minnesota) and Temperance Tracts with a MN Connection (from Archbishop John Irelands collection of temperance tracts).

This year’s gate counts in OShaughnessy-Frey Library, USTs main library have been the highest ever in the history of the UST Libraries. October, 2007, count was 75,587, highest single month in history. For the months of September through March (07/08), we have set all time record highs for gate counts in 5 of the 7 months compared to same months in previous years. We have also seen an increase in the number of searches on the library catalog and a corresponding increase in book checkouts.

Macalester College -Terri Fishel, Library Director

Macalester’s major summer project will be to complete implementation of WorldCat Local. We have been working closely with the OCLC implementation team and progress has been excellent. Due to staff vacations and leaves, we will be taking a little longer for testing, but expect to have it completed well before August.

Macalester, along with the other CLIC institutions, is working on a consortium implementation of ContentDM. The goal is to have the collective site go live by July 1.

The Midwest Technology Conference hosted by Macalester appears to have been very successful. 240 registered to attend, and plans are underway to evaluate a potential annual event.

Submitted by Dan Gjelten, Private Colleges Representative

University of Minnesota, TC Report
Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota, TC
June 6, 2008

Recent Programs and Projects
Research Cyberinfrastructure Alliance Launched -In Fall 2007, the University’s Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), and the University Libraries began development of a strategic alliance in support of research cyberinfrastructure. The initial vision is that high-end, high quality research computing systems and services are provided in secure environments that enhance interdisciplinary research and allow researchers to explore radically new concepts, approaches, and tools. In coordination with this effort, the Libraries have recently formed an "E-Science Collaborative" to build knowledge and capacity within the Libraries to support e-science and data services, to define a potential new model for library liaison roles across campus that supports interdisciplinary research, and to develop a framework for educating the campus community about data policies.

Transfers to MLAC -The University Libraries transferred approximately 150,000 low use materials from Wilson Library to the MLAC this spring, completing the project in mid-May.
Serial Vendor Selected - EBSCO has been selected as the primary serial vendor for all U of MN campuses, through an RFP process involving representatives from the TC and coordinate campuses, and University Purchasing.

Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups - The Libraries are pleased to offer the sixth Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups. During the 2008 institute, to be held in Minneapolis July 19 through 25, academic librarians in the first three years of their professional careers will explore leadership and organizational behavior as they work to develop key skill sets. The institute curriculum provides a rich mix of learning opportunities as well as professional networking development for the participants. The 2008 program builds on the success of previous institutes, offered every two years since 1998. This year’s cohort of 23 librarians will be joining us from institutions such as the University of Michigan, the University of Iowa, Dayton, NC State, Virginia Commonwealth, UCLA, Georgia State, Cornell, and the University of Delaware.

Recent Presentations at National Conferences Held in Minneapolis - "HarvestChoice: Developing Biblio-spatial Integrations for Search," John Butler, Chad Fennell, Grant McKenzie, and Philip Pardey; Digital Library Federation 2008 Spring Forum; Minneapolis, Minnesota; April 2008.

"University of Minnesota Digital Repository, myLibrary, and UThink Blog Initiatives," John Butler and Shane Nackerud; American Distance Education Consortium’s All ADEC Meeting; Minneapolis, Minnesota; April 2008.


Upcoming Events

**Who:** David Hajdu, author of *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America*

**What:** Book talk and signing

**Where:** Elmer L. Andersen Library

**When:** Tuesday, July 8, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

The Friends of the University Minnesota Libraries and the Children’s Literature Research Collections proudly present a Twin Cities appearance by David Hajdu.

Dessert reception follows with books available for sale courtesy of Red Balloon Bookshop. David Hajdu will be signing books.
Comic books, not rock-and-roll, created the generation gap. They also spawned juvenile delinquency, crime, sexual deviance, and things of unspeakable depravity. Long before Elvis appeared on Ed Sullivan from the waist up, long before Jerry Lee Lewis married his cousin, long before James Dean yelled, “You’re tearing me apart,” teachers, politicians, priests, and parents were lining up across from comic-book publishers, writers, artists, and children at bonfires and Senate hearings decrying the evil that was the ten-cent plague.

David Hajdu’s *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America* comprises the last book in an informal trilogy about American popular culture at mid-century, and radically revises common notions of popular culture, the generation gap, and the divide between “high” and “low” art.

This special event with David Hajdu is part of an evening celebration honoring John Borger and his gift of almost 40,000 comic books to the Children’s Literature Research Collections at the University Libraries.

Submitted by Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota, TC Representative

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Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Report  
*Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network*  
June 6, 2008

Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange [Sammie]  
*Robin Chaney, Director*

The Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Teen Coop’s vision is **SAMMIE Area Libraries will provide Teen Services that inspire positive interactions, creative expression and growth.** In working toward the vision, we are investigating options in resources for teens; educating staff in serving teens; teen spaces; programming for teens. SAMMIE member school & public libraries will be surveyed to determine the current status of teen services in the region.

The strategic planning process that SAMMIE conducted over the last nine months involved over 50 people in various settings. The resulting document will guide SAMMIE and its member libraries for the next three years and beyond.

Northern Lights Library Network, Detroit Lakes – *Ruth Solie, Director*

NLLN has been working on the expanded **North Star Library Consortium.** This summer we will convert our Destiny software to a new “Consortium” model. This is a major new configuration for the Consortium’s current 90 members. As a result, each District will have considerably more autonomy, but certain aspects of a shared catalog will be lost.

Also as a result of the **Enhancing Education Through Technology** (E2T2) grant we will be expanding the Consortium beyond the NLLN/Region 1 area into the central Minnesota area (CMLE region), and then statewide. We plan to add between 15-20 new sites this summer and will do another major group in Dec-Jan; and a third batch next summer. The grant runs until Dec 2009 and we anticipate we will add at least another 50 member libraries to our current 90 members by the end of the grant period.

Training for current Consortium members moving to the new configuration will take place in August; 2-day training for new members of the Consortium will be in August, also.

NLLN and CMLE will both be adding new libraries to the Consortium, and several Destiny users who already have the software as a stand-alone system, will be migrating to the “hosted” Consortium environment.

NLLN had 110 participants and 33 finishers in the **23 Things on a Stick** program ending in April and are looking forward to another batch for the summer version of 23 Things. It was well-received in our region (and lots of fun to do).
The **Spotlight on Books Conference** was held April 11-12 despite a ferocious blizzard that prevented some folks (and the food truck) from getting to Sugar Lake Lodge, but the presenters, authors and 75 attendees who did get there enjoyed a great conference with Jim Trelease, JD MacHale, Debra Frasier, and Mary Casanova. We hope for better weather in 2009.

The **NLLN Annual Meeting**, scheduled for April 26, however did not fare so well. Another ferocious blizzard forced us to cancel that event. We hope to re-schedule the Techno-Fit workshop with Brenda Hough in the early Fall.

**Central MN Libraries Exchange (CMLE), St Cloud** - **Patricia Post, Director**
CMLE 23 Things on a Stick Program Activities included:
- Supplied staff to do statewide press releases
- Recruited and administered the program for 130 bloggers in round one, including the recruitment and guidance of regional coaches to work with participants
- Negotiated, secured, and distributed incentive prizes for finishers of the program
- Supplied staff time to track the progress of participants for use in an upcoming journal article
- Supplied staff time to create and submit a breakout session proposal for the fall MLA conference
- Devoting staff time to putting together a 23 Things Reception at the MLA conference

**Interlibrary Loan Services**
Requests for materials are down by about 800 requests this year due to several factors including the loss of school media specialists to mediate requests for students. More of these schools tell the students they must work with what is available in the school collection.

CMLE is in the midst of a software migration to Aleph, Version 18.

**Destiny Software Consortium**
Continued discussions with Region 1, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN), and Follett about the expansion of the North Star Library Consortium and implementation of an E2T2 grant. Informational meetings for CMLE members took place in May in two locations for possible summer inclusion in the consortium. NLLN and CMLE will provide ongoing coordination and training opportunities for consortium members. Region 1 will host the software and act as fiscal agent for the consortium.

**Trainings and Events**
April 22: CMLE/MEMO Spring Meeting in St. Michael/Albertville with 35 school media specialists. The evening included a tour of the new Fieldstone Elementary School, dinner, a presentation on Smart Boards, Web 2.0 show and tell, and recognition of finishers of the 23 Things on a Stick program.

May 9: Two ELM workshops at Rasmussen College

Hosting of all College of DuPage teleconferences this quarter

Destiny consortium informational meetings in Alexandria and Foley on May 13.

**SMILE - Mankato** - **Nancy Steele, Director**
SMILE is finishing up its fiscal year by completing the usual tasks and planning for the coming year. In addition, summer projects are finding a less expensive auditor, promoting **23 Things on a Stick Round 2**, revising brochures, scheduling fall training sessions and planning a forum for regional political candidates with library supporters.
The story times for children with storytellers and volunteer American Sign Language interpreters supported by SMILE are so successful that a larger location is need when the monthly program begins again in the fall. The interpreters stopped counting those attending in May during the final program at 72.

SMILE is working with SOCRATES, our technology district, and the historical societies to complete an LSTA grant application as a state-wide initiative to provide interactive video and programming with teaching support materials. The Nicollet County Historical Society and the Blue Earth County Historical Society are partners to provide through the network, programs for schools and remote locations such as public libraries. This should add to the Minnesota history curriculum throughout the state.

The Watonwan County Historical Society has joined SMILE and is working on a project of selecting materials to be digitized and added to the Minnesota Reflections Collections.

Metronet – St Paul  
*Ann Walker Smalley, Director*

Metronet’s activities and programs during the past three months included:

Nine Training sessions with all participants in MILI, the Information Literacy Initiative at St Paul Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, District 112 (Chaska) Public Schools.

Continued planning for the 2nd Information Literacy Summit to be held June 20 on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Speakers include Joan Lippincott, Coalition on Networked Information, Kent Pekel, Special Assistant to the President, University of Minnesota, and Larry Hardesty, Winona State University Library. There will be panel discussions and breakout sessions addressing the issue of alignment of teaching research/information literacy skills.

Management of the 23 Things on a Stick online learning program. More than 1,100 registered; 261 finished and were awarded flash drives. New round began on May 15 and will end September 15 for new participants and to allow time for Round 1 starters to finish.

Planning with other multitypes for presentations at MLA and MEMO on 23 Things On a Stick and for receptions at both conferences for all interested in the program.

Planning for Camp Read-a-Lot in collaboration with MELSA. Camp Read-a-Lot is a continuing education event for teachers of Grades 2-5 and elementary school library media specialists.

Distribution of 6 scholarships to Metronet region library staff for attendance at Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis.

Working in collaboration with MINITEX & State Library Services to determine the future of WebJunction-Minnesota. Metronet will take over the management of WJMN if the contract is renewed.

Representing the multitypes at the State Library Advisory Council meeting in April.

Agreements with Minneapolis Public Schools and District 112 (Chaska) for new Metronet Information Literacy cohorts for 2008-2009 school year.

Presentations:

- MEMO Tech SID on 23 Things On a Stick.
- Robbinsdale Public Schools on Web 2.0 Tools in the classroom and media center
- Web 2.0: An Introduction for Librarians at Midwest Technology Conference at Macalaster (in collaboration with Patricia Post, CMLE)
SELCO/SELS – Rochester  -Michael Scott  
Administration
The SELCO/SELS Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan in April 2008, launching a new mission statement: We Connect Libraries, new guiding principles, and four goals. The plan highlights strategic endeavors that will be undertaken as innovative or enhanced services. Programs and services ranked by member libraries as important or essential in recent and previous budget surveys and considered ongoing in SELCO’s service catalog, (such as library automation, ILL, and delivery) were not itemized in the plan. This greatly reduces the size to two pages and will enable board members, library staff, and SELCO staff to focus on the new strategic activities. The plan can be found on the SELCO/SELS website, http://www.selco.info, and search “strategic plan fy2009.”

After 14 months of intense investigation, the Structures Study Committee shared a preliminary recommendation with the SELCO/SELS Board of Directors on April 22, 2008. The report outlines possible changes in organizational structure, budget, membership and the Advisory Committee. Board governance, with appointments by a large representation of library constituents, and the advisory role of the ILS Operations Committee will continue in present form. Savings to the organization in real expenditures and staff time are estimated at $22,140. Opportunity for dialogue and input from SELCO/SELS member libraries begins June 4 with a total of 7 meetings around the SELCO/SELS region in June, July, and August 2008. The preliminary recommendation is available at http://www.selco.info/structure-study-recommendation.pdf. All materials reviewed by the Committee during its deliberations are available on the Structure Blog: http://www.selco.info/blogs/structure.

Technology Services
The Joint ILS Operations and Technology Policy Committee are investigating a new front end for the SELCO Online Catalog. As SELCO and the Online libraries continue to study the future of integrated library systems, a move to a third party application for the Catalog would provide a host of new features for the public and be transferable to any other library system. The Joint ILS Operations and Technology Policy Committee participated in a Webinar with Endeca on April 17 to begin their investigation for a new and expanded online catalog.

Library users can now recommend titles for purchase. Using a web form within the SELCO Online Catalog, their suggestions are forwarded to their home library for consideration.

The Joint ILS Operations and Technology Policy Committee are also investigating e-commerce solutions to allow library users to pay fines or other fees with credit cards, either in the library or via the library’s website. This will be a local option as not all Online Libraries may choose or be able to use an e-commerce solution. The Joint ILS Operations and Technology Policy Committee participated in web training with Envisionware on May 15 to continue their investigation of e-commerce solutions for the Online Libraries.

Grant News
The Minnesota Department of Education approved the SELS FY 2008 LSTA competitive grant application for the Chatfield Brass Band Music Lending Library to become a SELCO Online Library. In-house preliminary planning has started for a project that will run July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

The task of affixing new barcodes to over 37,000 items as part of the Community Academic Libraries as Online Partners grant at Crossroads College in Rochester is complete. The creation of original cataloging records and inputting items continues for both colleges. We anticipate a June 17th “go-live” dates for both campuses. SELCO is one of 13 national applicants to receive a Smart Investing grant. SELCO, in partnership with public television station KSMQ in Austin, will create a series of 13 TV segments on finance and investing as well as host local library programming. Rachel Gray joined the staff as the Smart Investing Project Librarian on February 4.
A wealth of Rural Sustainability resources are being posted to the SELCO/SELS website. The newest addition includes online video presentations of the programs hosted at local libraries. This LSTA project is being done in partnership with the Experiment in Rural Cooperation. For more information, check the SELCO/SELS website: http://www.selco.info/programs-services/rural-sustainability/

Personnel
On May 1, Mollie Pherson began serving as the SELCO Regional Librarian. With previous library experiences at the Red Wing Public Library and the LE Phillips Memorial Library in Eau Claire, Mollie was introduced to children’s programming and the news media when she served as the liaison between the library and the newspaper. Her primary tasks will fall into three broad categories: support for the member libraries, managing regional resource sharing including ILL, and communications and advocacy.

Tyler Irvin has accepted the position of Project Librarian for the new LSTA joint project with the Chatfield Brass Band Music Lending Library (CBBML). Tyler will serve as the primary contact between SELCO and CBBML Library to ensure that project activities and timeline are followed or modified as needed. He will also participate in training and assist with project evaluation and the preparation of all reports. Tyler will continue working as an LSTA Project Cataloger as a large part of this project will be to ensure that the cataloging records meet SELCO and national standards.

23 Things on a Stick A Library Learning 2.0 Program
SELCO/SELS had over 150 participants in the first round of the 23 Things on a Stick program. Several member libraries boasted of 100% participation and a majority of the SELCO staff worked through the 23 Things, including three SELCO/SELS Board members. Aurora Jacobsen, Information Services Librarian, assisted with curriculum development and managed the SELS 23 Things blog roll.

Submitted by Ruth Solie, State Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Representative

Regional System Libraries Report
Peg Werner, Director, Viking Library System
June 6, 2008

Arrowhead Library System -Jim Weikum, Director
The Grand Rapids Area Library director, Janet Coy, has retired. Her replacement is Marcia Anderson, the previous Assistant Director. ALS is contemplating carrying out several of the directives of their strategic plan in 2008 including using an outside consultant to assist the staff in evaluating their technical services and delivery programs.

East Central Regional Library -Barb Misselt, Director
Andy Nordin has been hired as the new technical system administrator at ECRL. He comes to Minnesota from the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in Michigan. East Central staff continues to have a difficult time carrying out contract negotiations with SirsiDynix for the system that replaced their Horizon 8.0 software. ECRL Director, Barb Misselt has been in discussion with the Taylors Falls library on whether or not they are interested in receiving services from the regional library.

Great River Regional Library -Kirsty Smith, Director
The new St. Cloud Public Library may be open in early September – although we all know that opening dates are moving targets. The main library will be closed for approximately three weeks while the library is relocated. Neighboring branches will remain open for patron service. GRRL has added Google Book Search and Library Thing to their HIP (Horizon Information Portal).
Lake Agassiz Regional Library  -Kathy Fredette, Director
LARL began working with a new delivery service, Northern Network Express, LLC in February. LINKS sites continue to receive once-a-week delivery through local staff efforts. Two more branches, Detroit Lakes and Fosston, have initiated self-check. Use of the ‘floating collection” concept seems to be going well and patrons are reportedly delighted to see so many “new” materials.

MELSA  -Chris Olson, Director
MELSA is using some of its state funding to purchase the Homework Help Program for all of its member libraries. They hope to have it up and running by September 1. MELSA libraries are looking at options to make the public displays of their ILS systems more unified. They have also been exploring the possible installation and use of RFID.

Northwest Regional Library  -Barbara Jauquet-Kalinoski, Director
Seventy-five percent of the library staff attended PLA in Minneapolis. They brought back enthusiastic ideas and are now searching for ways to implement them. NRL Board passed a resolution requiring all branch libraries to be open until 8:00 PM on the same evening and to be open for four hours on Saturdays.

Pioneerland Library System  -John Houlanhan, Director
Pioneerland celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a dinner and awards night in April. Special guests were former directors/staff members Burton Sundburg, Kathy Matson and Bob Boese. Bob also gave a presentation on the formation and history of Pioneerland Library System.

Plum Creek Library System  -Mark Ranum, Director
Plum Creek went live on SirsiDynix Unicorn in December. They continue to experience the usual problems in a major migration and are working the vendor to overcome them. The PCLS staff has been in conversation with the Siverson Public Library in Hendricks regarding possible services that the region could deliver to the library. A new strategic plan is being developed by the library system in response to state requirements.

SELCO  -Ann Hutton, Director
SELCO is rolling out a new strategic plan approach in that it does not include any ongoing services. Only those new or enhanced programs will be included, which reduces the plan to a two page document. SELCO is working to bring the Chatfield Brass Band Music Library online with a sizable LSTA grant. Mollie Pherson replaces Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran as Regional Librarian.

Traverse Des Sioux Library System  -Patty Biesterfeld, Director
The TdS Board continues its search for an Executive Director. A new search began on May 1 and the position will remain open until filled. A new version of NCIP software has been installed and TdS is testing the product now. TdS received an LSTA grant to do a makeover of their website.

Viking Library System  -Peg Werner, Director
Viking Library System is expanding its Group Home Outreach program to include five additional sites. Participants receive rotating collections of books, audiobooks, movies, puzzles and games on a monthly basis. Materials are selected based on developmental age of the clients. Viking Library System continues to pursue opportunities for a new headquarters building.

Submitted by Peg Werner, Regional System Libraries Representative
University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus Libraries Report
Bill Sozansky, Director, University of Minnesota, Duluth
June 6, 2008

University of Minnesota Crookston Library Report - Owen Williams, Director
UMD Library in partnership with the Friends of the Duluth Public Library and the Lake Superior Writers will be hosted the 20th annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards (NEMBA). The winning books were as follows:

**Nonfiction, Memoir:** Morgan Park: Duluth, U.S. Steel, and the Forging of a Company Town by Arnold R. Alanen, published by University of Minnesota Press

**Fiction, Drama:** Thunder Bay: A Cork O'Connor Mystery by William Kent Krueger, published by Atria Books

**Art, Photography:** Celebrating Birch: The Lore, Art, and Craft of an Ancient Tree by North House Folk School, published by Fox Chapel Publishing.

**Children's Literature:** Agate: What Good is a Moose? by Joy Morgan Dey, illustrated by Nikki Johnson, published by Lake Superior Port Cities.

Bill Holm was the featured speaker at the awards ceremony on Sunday May 18th and he did a writer’s workshop on Saturday May 17th at the UMD Library for the Lake Superior Writers.

Submitted by Bill Sozansky, University of Minnesota, Coordinate Campus Representative

State Government Libraries Report
Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library
June 6, 2008

**Marketing ELM to State Employees**
CALCO has added links to elm4you.org on its page on the North Star web site. Also included are links to “More About ELM” and an “Ask A Librarian” link for users with questions. An email message was sent in late May to communications directors at state agencies. We will follow up with this group this summer to encourage usage and solicit feedback.

**Attorney General Library – Anita Anderson, Law Librarian**
The A.G. Library hosted its 14th Annual Library Open House on Thursday, April 17, in honor of National Library Week. The theme was the Minnesota Sesquicentennial. Library staff provided an array of baked treats, including Minnesota-shaped cookies and Sweet Martha’s State Fair cookies. In between bites, A.G. staff tested their knowledge of Minnesota history with a multiple choice Sesquicentennial Quiz, and perused books from the A.G. collection on Minnesota history. They also viewed an online Google Tips demo and the History Center’s Minnesota TimePieces web site. A highlight of the Open House was the singing of the Minnesota State Song, Shines for All to See. It was the first known sing-along in A.G. Library history.

**Legislative Reference Library – Robbie LaFleur, Director**
Robbie LaFleur, Director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, will receive the 2008 Peter Popovich Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The award will be presented on
Thursday, June 12, at the SPJ annual awards banquet at Town & Country Club. She was nominated by Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MnCOGI), where she is a Board member and Treasurer. MnCOGI’s nomination letter outlines the many accomplishments of the Legislative Reference Library under her tenure and her dedication to MnCOGI. The Peter S. Popovich Award is given each year by the Board of the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists to “the person or organization that exemplifies the fight for First Amendment Rights.” The award was named for the late Peter S. Popovich, a champion of open government during his years in the Minnesota House of Representatives, as the chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals and as the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Congratulations, Robbie!

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes has added all the historic Minnesota Session Laws, from 1849 to 1993, to the Legislature's website. Even the oldest laws scanned well, and they can all be searched by key word. This new online access is great for lawyers, but the laws are also a window to the history of our state for researchers, historians, and genealogists. Read about the project details in a press release from the Revisor of Statutes, Michele Timmons.

Few legislators are around following the end of the 2008 legislative session, and many legislative staff members are on vacation too. That gives breathing room in our reading room, and signals the time to begin summer projects. We will be updating many of our Web publications and one publishing some new issue guides. One long-term planning project is how to appropriately celebrate the Library's 40th anniversary in 2009. There will be special publications and parties!

Betsy Haugen, one of our reference librarians, has been busy because one of the web pages she maintains is the VETO page. Governor Pawlenty vetoed many pieces of legislation.

We released a database of the full text of executive orders from the past six governors. Governors tend to include electronic access to their own, but once they leave, so do the orders. Search the orders at: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/execorders/execorders.asp

**Minnesota Historical Society – Kathryn Otto, Head of Reference**

Tracey Baker, Assistant Head of Reference at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, has been named one of six “Movers and Shakers in Archives” for 2008 by ArchivesNext for her work with Placeography, the Minnesota Historical Society’s house history wiki.

The ArchivesNext posting says: “Tracey’s commitment to bringing Web 2.0 tools into her library and encouraging her colleagues to embrace them is just part of what made her stand out among the nominees.” Her nominator writes, “The site [Placeography] is already popular with individuals as well as organizations, including local historical societies, preservation groups, community councils, and neighborhood and city development groups.” We couldn’t agree more. Congratulations, Tracey!

Although a bunch (covey? flock?) of MHS librarians and paraprofessionals started out on the 23 Things on a Stick learning program in February, only one actually finished. The program took a LOT of time – much of it at home after hours – but was well worth it. Most of the original bunch is giving it another try on the second round of training. Now that everyone has a better handle on how much time it will take, we are meeting as a group once a week to go over that week's assignment and ask questions/guidance of the person who finished the first time.

The MHS Library has already instituted a number of Library 2.0 "things" and more are in the works. We have an internal blog for the librarians to keep track of: new policies and procedures, things that took a lot of research to figure out, obscure but useful information, etc. We also have a "Researchers Notebook" blog for the researcher group that meets once a month at MHS, which includes a widget from LibraryThing promoting new books in the Library. A general library blog is in the planning stages.
We also have a bi-monthly e-newsletter for genealogists, "Family History News," and plan to launch a general library e-newsletter in June called "Library & Archives News." If you want to sign up for an e-newsletter, go to http://discovery.mnhs.org/enews and subscribe.

On May 29, the Minnesota Historical Society launched a federated search engine that will allow users to search across our many in-house databases such as the MnPALS catalog, our Visual Resources Database for photographs and artwork, the birth certificates index, and the death certificates index. There are two interfaces, a PeopleFinder and a HistoryFinder (keyword search). Eventually the federated search engine will also allow you to search North and South Dakota databases and several Minnesota county historical societies as well.

Mn/DOT Library – Sheila Hatchell, Director
The library has re-invented its Recent Acquisitions List now called New Library Materials. It is distributed electronically only, is more timely and is issued monthly, and includes links to the many documents that are available on the Web. You may view it at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/library/recacq.html.

Mn/DOT Library's Web site was featured in an internationally-broadcast Webinar on Electronic Resources in Transportation. It was the only library Web site featured. It was a very proud moment for us. Our Web site links to the best Web-delivered transportation information available and is continuously updated. It was designed and maintained by Mn/DOT Systems Librarian Jim Byerly. You may view Mn/DOT Library's Web site at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/library/.

We were able to hire a student worker, Josh Melvin, for the summer. Josh is helping us clean up various backlogs, and we are using his interest and background in history to explore ways of capturing and providing access to Minnesota's transportation history.

R. N. Barr Library – Paul Elliott Dahl, Director
Check It Out, the online library newsletter of the Barr Library at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), will be published monthly instead of bimonthly as it has been. It is being published more frequently in order to facilitate timelier access to articles of significance in public health journals. Check It Out is located at http://www.health.state.mn.us/library/checkitout.html.

Congratulations go out to Kari Guida and LuAnne McNichols (MDH employees) for being the recipients of two $20 Amazon gift cards during the National Library Week drawing at both the Freeman and Golden Rule locations of the Barr Library.

An inexact count of 43 published journal articles and book chapters was identified by the Barr Library for Minnesota Department of Health authors (or contributors) for 2007. The most prolific MDH author was Ruth Lynfield with 9 articles and 5 book chapters. The Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control (IDEPSC) Division was the top division with 20 publications (13 articles and 7 book chapters). A more detailed breakdown by MDH division and journal publication appears below.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Publication Count by Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control – 20 publications*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public Health Laboratory – 7 publications*
Executive Office – 6 publications
Health Policy – 4 publications
Environmental Health – 3 publications
Health Promotion and Chronic Disease – 3 publications
Community and Family Health – 1 publication
Compliance Monitoring – 0 publications
*One journal article was counted twice since it was a joint article by a IPEPC author and a PHL author

Publication Count by Journals or Book
Infection Disease Surveillance [Book] – 8 book chapters
Clinical Infectious Diseases – 3 articles
Minnesota Medicine – 3 articles
Rural Minnesota Journal – 3 articles
Emerging Infectious Diseases – 2 articles
Journal of Food Protection – 2 articles
JAGS: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society – 2 articles
Molecular Genetics and Metabolism – 2 articles
Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology – 2 articles
AIDS Patient Care – 1 article
American Journal of Nursing – 1 article
American Journal of Preventive Medicine – 1 article
Archives of Internal Medicine – 1 article
Cellular Microbiology – 1 article
Epidemiology and Infection – 1 article
FEMS Microbiology Letter – 1 article
Human & Ecological Risk Assessment – 1 article
Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice – 1 article
Journal of Infectious Diseases – 1 article
JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association – 1 article
Minnesota Fire Chief – 1 article
MMWR: Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report – 1 article
New England Journal of Medicine – 1 article
Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal – 1 article
Public Health Reports – 1 article

Submitted by Karla Gedell, State Government Libraries Representative

County Libraries Report
Vanessa Birdsey, Director, Scott County Library
June 6, 2008

Hennepin County Library System -Amy Ryan, Director

Expanded Library Board Convenes For Its Historic First Meeting -The expanded Hennepin County Library Board — which was expanded from seven to 11 members following the Jan. 1 consolidation of the Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County library systems — held its first meeting on Feb. 27.

Hennepin County Commissioner Randy Johnson, board chair, attended the meeting. He congratulated new members appointed to the board and recognized the first meeting as an important, historic occasion. Library Board President John Gibbs spoke on the role of the Library Board and acknowledged the great support the county provides the library. He said there was a spirit of open-mindedness during pre-merger discussions about
the benefits of a larger system and the challenges to be faced in serving every neighborhood in Hennepin County. The board recognized that the expanded system would require a new, broader vision and some redefinition.

For complete board minutes, go to http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/libraryboard.cfm

Hennepin County Library Collaborates With American Association Of University Women On 'Influential Women' Student Essay Competition - Winners of the “Influential Women…Then and Now” essay competition co-sponsored by the West Metro Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Hennepin County Library were announced in March.

Library Staffer Recognized As 'Mover And Shaker' By Library Journal - Jennifer Nelson, partnerships coordinator for digital inclusion at Minneapolis Central Library, was named one of Library Journal's 2008 “Movers & Shakers” in its March 15 issue. The 50 individuals selected “represent thousands of others across North America who are transforming libraries for the better…Reading the profiles…reinforces the impact that they have on people's lives, directly or indirectly. They don't merely answer questions, though; they create the technologies and tools that make it possible for their users to get what they need anywhere, anytime.” Recognized in the “Advocate” category, Nelson was nominated for her work with the Teen Tech Squad and the Micro Entrepreneur Resource Center. She is one of two Minnesotans who were recognized this year. HCL librarians Jeffrey Gegner and Lois Langer Thompson made the list in 2004.

Outreach Services Receives Ala’s ‘Great Stories Club’ Grant - Hennepin County Library Outreach Services received a Great Stories CLUB grant from the American Library Association.

CLUB (Connecting Libraries, Underserved Teens and Books) is a reading and discussion program organized by ALA in cooperation with Young Adult Library Services Association that targets underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant in their lives. The program is built on partnerships between libraries and a variety of organizations that serve troubled teens. Its goal is to introduce them to the power and pleasure of reading, that reading is a tool for self-exploration and a meaningful way to connect to the wider world. It is funded by Oprah’s Angel Network.

Outreach will work with District 287 to implement the program in fall 2008. HCL is one of two public library systems in Minnesota (the other is Washington County Library) to receive the grant.

Press Conference At Minneapolis Central Library Releases National Study On Library Service To New Immigrants - As Hennepin County Library continues its efforts to assist new immigrants by providing access to library materials in 40 different languages, Conversation Circles to practice English and bilingual staffers who speak Spanish, Somali and Hmong, the library hosted a press conference on March 26 in its New Americans Center, 4th floor, Minneapolis Central Library, to unveil a national study on library services to non-English speakers.

“Serving Non-English Speakers: 2007 Analysis of Library Demographics, Services and Programs,” a study conducted by the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Research and Statistics, provides new information on library services and programs developed for non-English speakers, including effectiveness of services, barriers to library use, most frequently used services and most successful library programs.

“The Hennepin County Library system’s longtime commitment to providing services for diverse populations provides a perfect backdrop for the release of this groundbreaking study,” said ALA President Dr. Loriene Roy. “The study’s findings will provide a venue for developing better and more precise materials, services and programs for those linguistically isolated.”

Turner’s award was based on her work on the 2007 Somali Teens in Conversation DVD, which addressed racial perceptions in the community. The DVD was developed in collaboration with Solutions Finders at Eden Prairie High School, funded by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County and produced by Phillips Community Television.

Westonka Library, Community Celebrated Library Renovation On March 29  -Westonka Library in Mound invited the community to a "Renovation Celebration" on March 29 to celebrate the library's "refreshed" interior, with improved sight lines and utilization of space, better defined service areas and a more vibrant, welcoming space.

Festivities included opening remarks by staff and officials, Minnesota Children's Museum Discovery Trunk activities, gaming for teens, a video tournament and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Westonka Library.

Interior improvements include new carpeting in the teen and computer areas and the main walkway, 10 more public computers and some new furniture and furnishings. Reconfigured shelving and furniture layout plus wall modifications improve natural light and create a more open and airy ambience. All customer service is now provided at one Service Desk.

The Westonka Historical Society and the Friends of the Westonka Library donated a new display case.

Customers had full access to all library services during the renovation. This is the first renovation for the 8,500-square-foot library, which opened in 1972.

HCL’S Bookspace Featured In 'Computers In Libraries' Magazine  -Hennepin County Library IT staffers Sharon McGlinn and Glenn Peterson's article, "Building a Community of Readers Online," was featured in the April issue of Computers in Libraries magazine. The article traces the development and highlights the features of BookSpace.org, the popular reader's advisory resource on Hennepin County Library website.

Hennepin County Receives Local Government Innovation Award  -Hennepin County, in partnership with the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Public Library Board, received a 2007 Local Government Innovation Award from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center for the consolidation of Hennepin County Library and Minneapolis Public Library.

This award recognizes the collaborative efforts of government entities working to solve a significant community issue. The award category was Management Process Improvement.

Library Board Elects New Officers At April 16 Meeting  -New officers were elected at a meeting of the Hennepin County Library Board on April 16 at the Brookdale Library in Brooklyn Center.

New officers are Patricia Izek of Plymouth, president; Therese VanBlarcom of Rogers, vice president; and John Pacheco of Minneapolis, secretary.

Outgoing officers recognized for their service are John Gibbs of Bloomington (president), Izek (vice president) and Holly Guncheon of Plymouth (secretary). Complete Library Board membership is online at http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/board_membership.cfm

El Dia De Los Niños/El Dia De Los Libros Celebrations Sponsored By Local Libraries  -Hennepin County Library celebrated El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day) in April with music, stories, games, and dance at seven libraries and the Church of the Assumption in Richfield.
The libraries welcomed families of all cultures to this annual celebration observed by libraries across the country. HCL's events encouraged children to enjoy books and reading and encouraged parents to read to their children daily to develop a family reading tradition.

**Teen Offenders Create 'Diverse-City' Anthology** - The words and sketches of Hennepin County Home School students fill the pages of the *Diverse-City 9.0* anthology, the result of a poetry-writing workshop conducted by Hennepin County Library staff at the school to provide residents a vehicle for creative expression.

The anthology is part of the library’s award-winning Great Transitions program, a collaboration of the library, the Epsilon staff of the Intermediate School District 287 and the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation, at the Hennepin County Home School. Funding for the anthology was provided by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County.

Copies of *Diverse-City 9.0* are available at the 41 Hennepin County libraries and can be ordered through Outreach Services.

**Franklin Teen Center Opens** - On April 29, Franklin Library customers, community members and staff celebrated the opening of the new Franklin Library Teen Center. Located on the lower level of the library, this center will be utilized for specific teen programs, including book groups, Conversation Circles and activities targeted to library customers 12-18 years old.

Approximately 50 teens attended the event. As part of the opening celebration, musicians Beatrix* Jar presented a circuit bending workshop for teens and encouraged attendees to manipulate the circuit boards of vintage children’s toys to make unique sounds. The event was a smashing success!

**Summer Exhibition Features 150 Years Of Minnesota Inventions** - What do Rollerblades, Scotch tape, seat belts and the Tilt-a-Whirl have in common? All were invented in Minnesota. The Minneapolis Central Library is hosting “Minnovations: 150 Years of Ingenuity,” a celebration of Minnesota inventions and inventors. Paying tribute to Minnesota’s thriving culture of invention, the exhibition highlights the best of the library’s patent collection. Minneapolis Central Library is Minnesota’s Patent and Trademark Depository Library.

The exhibition is made possible by a Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission.

From May 1 through Aug. 17, hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues. and Thurs.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wed., Fri., Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.

**New Maple Grove Site Approved** - The Maple Grove City Council unanimously approved the site plan for the new Maple Grove Library at the council's May 5 meeting following a brief informational presentation in support of the project by Deputy Library Director Lois Langer Thompson.

The City Council members applauded Hennepin County and the library for moving forward with this significant county and city project to provide the community with a first-class, 21st century library. The new library is less than a mile southeast of the current location, in the city's "civic campus" area, north of the Maple Grove Government Center.

Project architect is Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle. County and library staffs are reviewing construction documents. Construction is anticipated to start later this year, with the grand opening tentatively set for early 2010.

**Hennepin County Library Honors Volunteers** - Hennepin County Library thanked its 1,000 volunteers and 2600 Friends — who donated 52,650 hours of time and talent to the suburban libraries last year — at a recognition event on May 17 in Golden Valley.
Library Director Amy Ryan welcomed the volunteers and expressed gratitude for their dedication to the library. Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat offered brief remarks. Guest speaker Kevin Kling, National Public Radio commentator, playwright, actor, humorist, and author of the "The Dog Says How," shared his witty observations on the absurdities and ironies of life.

Plymouth Library To Close On May 31 In Preparation For New Construction - Plymouth Library will close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 31 in preparation for construction of a new library on the site. Work on the new library building will begin this summer, and the reopening date is slated for 2010.

In the meantime, customers can visit Maple Grove (8351 Elm Creek Blvd.), Ridgedale (12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka) and Wayzata (620 Rice St.) libraries or any other Hennepin County Library location. Visit http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/locations.cfm for more details on alternate library locations.

The new Plymouth Library will be about 30,000 square feet — double the size of the current library; it will be built on the existing site. It will include increased and more flexible space for children, teens and adults, an expanded collection, more computers, additional customer conveniences, environmentally friendly features such as a "green" roof and more. Bentz/Thompson/Rietow is designing the new building.

13 Additional Hennepin County Libraries Begin Sunday Hours On June 1 - Beginning Sunday, June 1, 13 additional Hennepin County libraries will be open on Sundays year-round, for a total of 18 libraries open on Sundays. Libraries open on Sundays beginning June 1 are: Augsburg Park, Brookdale*, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, East Lake, Eden Prairie*, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Maple Grove*, Minneapolis Central, North Regional, Oxboro, Ridgedale*, Rockford Road, St. Louis Park, Southdale* and Westonka libraries.
* denotes library currently open on Sundays

Lifelong Learning Via Hennepin County Library - Hennepin County Library is nationally recognized as one of the top libraries in the United States. The 41-library system serves 1.1 million residents in Hennepin County and offers more than 5 million books, CDs and DVDs, materials in more than 40 languages and 1,750 public computers. The library is a service of Hennepin County.

Washington County Library System - Pat Conley, Director
WCL had great success with its first winter reading program, "Cold Nights, Hot Reads." Thanks to SELCO for all their work putting this program together.

WCL installed its first materials handling system ever at the Hardwood Creek Branch in Forest Lake, MN. Vendor: Envisionware. They were great to work with. There were significant problems getting it up and running but Envisionware sent people in and were really on top of it. Strong endorsement of them from our end. Our system is very small but given the 80-90% increase in circulation over last year at the branch we couldn't have done it without the materials handling system.

Security and safety in our branches has become a major focus as we grow from a sleepy suburb to a major growth center. We are developing a multi-faceted approach to dealing with disruptive behavior, mental illness, etc. I am always looking for ideas and suggestions for good training and procedures. So far we are purchasing security devices for staff in small libraries to carry around their necks, remodeling our Cottage Grove library to add more computers (a real source of customer friction) and a "quiet zone" computer lab plus a teen area, bringing the Black Belt Librarian in March 2009 for two days of training and consultation, working with our Sheriff to complete a security audit of the exterior of our buildings and discussing other measures, such as cameras, with our County Administration.

If anyone reading this has any suggestions or advice, please contact me at pat.conley@co.washington.mn.us
Scott County Library System  -Vanessa Birdsey, Director
Summer hours for Scott County Library branches began May 24 and will run through September 1.

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Anoka County Library System  -Marlene Moulton Janssen, Director
Dedication of Art Mural in Rum River Library’s Story Room  -The delightful new mural in the Children’s Storyhour Room at the Rum River Library was dedicated on May 28, 2008. Anoka County Library honored the mural’s artist, Diane Gronewold, her student assistants, Hirshfield’s, and Dr. Terry and Adrienne Yeager, funders.

The Library is located at 4201 6th Avenue in Anoka, MN.

Help Create Natural Beauty at the Mississippi Branch Library  -The Mississippi Branch Library in Fridley is getting a face lift! Spearheaded by Commissioner Jim Kordiak’s fundraising and landscape artist Betty Ann Addison’s vision, the project will create a garden oasis at this Anoka County Library branch. Both the interior courtyard and the building grounds are slated to be replanted. The landscape design features unique trees, shrubs, and perennials that will not only thrive but bring long-lasting beauty to our Minnesota climate. The Library is relying upon community supporters to provide the funding for this distinctive project. Gardens of Rice Creek, the Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary, the Fridley American Legion Post #303, the Wal-Mart Foundation, and RAO Manufacturing have contributed over $1,000 each; while Commissioner Kordiak, Ashley Furniture Outlets USA, Schaafs, Inc., CM Information Specialists, and Optometric Eye Care Center have all contributed as well. While over $6,000 has been donated, more is needed to complete the project. “I am pleased to support the library in this fundraising project,” said Commissioner Kordiak. “Your donations will offer a lasting benefit to the community which you and others will long enjoy.” If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to create a beautiful spot to read, surf the Web, or just enjoy connecting with your neighbor, please call the Anoka County Library at 763-785-3695 and ask to speak to Bonnie Dishon or Marlene Moulton Janssen. Donors will be recognized on a permanent commemorative plaque and at the dedication ceremony. Thank you for considering a gift to the Fridley community and the Anoka County Library.

Carver County Library System  -Melissa Brechon, Director
In May 2007, the State Legislature approved legislation to change the control of the Library System from the appointed Library Board to the County Board. The Carver County Library Board continues to be responsible for library policies and rules, review of the annual operating budget and five-year capital plan for submission to the county board, and any duties assigned to it by the County Board. The library board has sole authority and discretion in maintaining and developing the library collections and use of library meeting rooms.

The legislation was similar to that approved in Scott County (2007), Washington County (2005) and Hennepin County (1981).

**Dakota County Library System - Ken Behringer, Director**

**Libraries offer new options** - Video games for the PlayStation 2 and Xbox 360 are now available for checkout. **Playaway audiobooks** are here!

MyLibraryDV is a unique video-on-demand service created by Recorded Books in partnership with your local library. You can access hundreds of hours of DVD-quality programming such as cooking, travel, health, how-to, classic movies and more! Best of all, it is brought to you by your library at no additional charge to you.

**Big wheels rollin’ into library parking lots** - Climb up into a snowplow, dump truck and other big rigs at Dakota County Libraries’ Mighty Machines events. The first event is planned for June 11. All ages are invited to come and bring their cameras. Representatives from Dakota County fleet management and the County’s transportation department will answer questions.

**Ramsey County Library System - Susan Nemitz, Director**

**Ramsey County Library Expands Hours** - In its ongoing effort to enhance services offered to its many users, Ramsey County Library will be open an additional 15 hours per week beginning Sunday, January 27, 2008.

The library in Shoreview will be open on Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m. and the Maplewood and Roseville libraries will each get an extra hour on Sunday (12 to 5 p.m.). Two hours will be added on Tuesdays and Thursdays at North St. Paul (1 to 8 p.m.) and White Bear Lake will get three hours on Monday evenings (10 to 8 p.m.).

"The extended hours are all part of the library's commitment to our patrons," says Library Director Susan Nemitz. "We requested funding to expand geographic access to programs and services, and to improve customer service by creating intuitively understandable schedules."

Results from the 2007 Decision Resources Ltd. telephone survey showed that increasing hours was the number one improvement requested by suburban Ramsey County residents. Library hours have not increased since 1998, but overall system circulation figures increased 54 percent during the same period.

"Libraries are vital community centers," says Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt. "Adding hours to the library system means computers will be more readily available, people will have access to meeting rooms more days of the week, and services to children and their families will be increased."

The Ramsey County Commissioners approved the expanded hours and two FTE on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, as part of the 2008-2009 budget process.

**Maplewood Wins Architectural Honor** - Ramsey County's newest library is not even a year old and is already an award winner. The Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) named the Library one of seven architectural Honor Award winners for 2007. The library in Maplewood was selected from a field of 117 honor submissions.

"This is a wonderful recognition," says Susan Nemitz, Ramsey County Library Director. "We're incredibly honored. We've felt this facility was a community treasure even before construction was complete."
The jury, consisting of three nationally recognized architects from out-of-state firms, noted the great use of a limited budget, the thoughtful design and architectural principles, and the outdoor spaces that preserved and incorporated trees as key elements that set the Library apart from the rest.

Nemitz gives credit to the Library Board and the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for their thoughtful planning, as well as excellent project management from Ramsey County Property Management department and, of course, the architects Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.

The Friends of the Ramsey County Suburban Libraries also played a large role by providing an extra $63,342 in funding to add enhancements including gifts such as the fireplace, self-checkout machines and artwork design.

"The citizens of Ramsey County are already enjoying this unique and valuable community asset," says Nemitz. "The Library's circulation is up 15% and we are attracting teens to the library in numbers never before seen."

Submitted by Vanessa Birdsey, County Libraries Representative

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Technical Colleges Report
Pat Akerman, St. Cloud Technical College
June 6, 2008

Dakota County Technical College  -Michael Kirby, Library Director
At DCTC we recently introduced a new section of our Library web site aimed specifically at our online students. Barbara Tuttle and I received CAFÉ grants to do this work, which we'll continue to maintain and develop. You can see our Online Research Tutorials at  http://dctclibrary.dctc.edu/tutorials/intro.asp

St. Cloud Technical College  -Patricia Akerman, Library Director
The SCTC Library is currently under remodel with an anticipated completion date of mid-August. When we re-open, we’ll have a larger open space with new lighting and more windows, carpeting, expanded book-shelving, more computer stations, a new reference desk, quiet study areas, a group study room, private study rooms, new offices, and a media viewing room. We’ll also have a comfortable seating area where we’ll be able to host poetry readings and gatherings for visiting authors or guests.

Submitted by Pat Akerman, Technical Colleges Representative