

6. Minnesota Digital Library (Umbrella Concept)

I thought I would try to include these reports under our developing Umbrella Concept of Minnesota Digital Library. I believe both North and South Dakota will find some of this information useful. Reports will be sent out electronically or distributed during the meeting.

**Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM)**

We provided training to over 3,747 people in FY07, of which 1,934, or 52% were ELM based webinars or on-site training sessions. Of the 1,934 people attending ELM sessions, 345 were from academic libraries, 205 were from K12, 159 were from public libraries and 285 ‘others’ which included teachers and home educators and a large number didn’t indicate their affiliation or fill out feedback forms.

The general profile of searches in ELM FY07 compared with FY06 and FY05 was as follows:

<i><u>Vendor</u></i>	<i><u>FY07 Searches</u></i>	<i><u>FY06 Searches</u></i>	<i><u>FY05 Searches</u></i>
EBSCO	5,671,438	5,699,310	4,322,382
Gale/InfoTrac	3,164,439	3,288,118	3,017,349
Proquest	412,621	466,264	454,425
WorldCat	1,101,575	1,090,865	1,102,574
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,350,073</b>	<b>10,544,565</b>	<b>8,896,730</b>

<i><u>Type of Library</u></i>	<i><u>FY07 Searches</u></i>	<i><u>FY06 Searches</u></i>	<i><u>FY05 Searches</u></i>
Academic	5,896,175	5,822,791	4,356,086
K12	3,118,188	3,271,989	3,073,138
Public	968,676	1,121,338	1,151,223
Special	367,034	328,447	316,283
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,350,073</b>	<b>10,544,565</b>	<b>8,896,730</b>

Based on feedback from members of our MEIR Task Force, we recommended to the ELM funding agencies that we take the option in our ELM contracts of extending the contract each of two additional years.

With the number of years we have had the current databases, I personally would question whether we want to go forward in the future in the same way, that is, sending out a RFP in order to choose a particular vendor’s database to replace one we already have in ELM. Because of the last RFP process, we noted several libraries were affected because they had imbedded the ELM databases into their curriculum and coursework and in their training programs. This has now occurred again given the total number of searches by type of library and by vendor and the ELM databases are imbedded in various

services offered by libraries. In the future, I would seriously consider **expanding** the ELM databases rather than trying to replace them unless there is a distinct and serious problem that develops with any one of them that would warrant cancellation.

### **Research Project Calculator - enhancements**

We are in the midst of developing 'Son of Research Project Calculator' which will be for teachers about how to use the RPC with students. Jane Prestabak and Leslie Yoder are again doing the content creation with the MINITEX IT staff providing the technical functionalities to create the final product. At the same time, This version should be ready in October 2007. In the meantime, Michael Berkowski, MINITEX/MnLINK Linux System Administrator and Programmer, has updated the original RPC and added email reminders to help users stay on track for their projects.

### **Go Local Minnesota (MedLine Plus)**

If you haven't taken the opportunity to look at 'Go Local Minnesota', please do so at the following URL: <http://medlineplus.gov/minnesota>

Click on the label Health Information and then click on 'health topics' and see the amount of health information available. I would think this should be on every library's webpage under 'health information' so more people will at least understand what the subject is.

### **MnLINK Gateway**

#### **General MnLINK Update**

The Gateway Operations Committee met on August 2, 2007. There was a report from the MnLINK Marketing Task Force that had been involved in discussions of possible marketing strategies. The Task Force agreed to put aside a "marketing plan" for the time being and concentrate on the revision of the MnLINK Gateway brochure. The brochure was updated and printed in time for distribution at the Minnesota State Fair. We have also sent over 5,000 copies to libraries and have a waiting list for additional brochures. State Fair hand-outs this year included the brochure, bookmarks, note pads and rulers.

Martin Luther College in New Ulm went live on the MnLINK Gateway in September. They are a member of the Traverse des Sioux Library System and are set up as a separate ILL unit on the Gateway.

NCIP testing continues with Traverse des Sioux Library System on their Unicorn system. The final piece that we're waiting for until this can be used in production is the ability to move an item to "in transit" in order to accommodate centralized ILL processing. ISO interoperability testing between VDX and Aleph is underway but we have been made aware that there are issues with the way Aleph handles aliases that may impact this being operational in the near future.

#### **OCLC PICA Meetings at ALA**

There was a meeting of the OCLC PICA North American User group at ALA this past June. Agenda items included a discussion of the future of the ZPORTAL/VDX products. The current thinking within OCLC is that they will develop a single user discovery tool that will work across their products and be highly flexible to accommodate local needs. This could well be a replacement to ZPORTAL in the future. They are committed to upgrades to ZPORTAL through 2009. It is expected that the VDX (interlibrary loan) component will continue to be developed and marketed for large implementations.

MnLINK fared well in the enhancement voting for the version that will be released in the first quarter of 2009. All five of our ZPORTAL and three of our VDX submissions were accepted as enhancements. There are a total of ten enhancements each for ZPORTAL and VDX.

I was asked to meet with OCLC and OCLC PICA staff to discuss MNLINK use of the ZPORTAL/VDX software. This was a general meeting they conducted with several of the customers of these products. The goal was for them to gain a better understanding of how ZPORTAL/VDX are used in our environment. They did emphasize that the MnLINK use of the products is more technically demanding than their other sites. Our authentication and rota building strategies are two examples of this. They asked us to be involved as a “case study” for their marketing plan. We have yet to be involved in that activity.

### **Minnesota Public Library Node Meeting**

The meeting for public library staff was held in Brooklyn Park on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. There were about sixty attendees. This meeting is geared towards front-line interlibrary loan staff. The agenda included time for a discussion of tips for streamlining workflow. The feedback from the evaluations we received was overwhelmingly positive.

### **MnLINK User group Meeting**

Planning is underway for a MnLINK User Group meeting this fall. We have tentatively scheduled it on Friday, November 2, 2007 at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park. Tentative speakers include Joshua Ferraro who is the President of LibLime and Karen Calhoun from OCLC, both of whom will be addressing the future of the ILS. Also presenting will be Chris Meyer from the University of Minnesota who will provide an update on the Primo implementation and Ralph Horton from OCLC PICA who will be giving an update on ZPORTAL and VDX.

### **Aleph ILL Update**

MINITEX staff began using the version 18 GUI ILL software this June. This interface has changed significantly from the web-based product. There are some improvements in the functionality that we are using. However, we are still concerned about response time issues. The University of Minnesota, Morris campus began using the software for borrowing requests this month. If all goes well they will move on to lending in the near future.

### **Digital Minnesota** (currently referred to as Minnesota Digital Library)

We received a LSTA grant from the Minnesota State Library Agency to continue the work of the Minnesota Digital Library in FY08 and have several initiatives underway. In addition, we have approximately \$60,000 in state appropriations set aside for this activity, supporting staff and hardware and software maintenance. Currently, we have approximately 20,000 digital images and documents available in *Minnesota Reflections* and expect to add an additional 7,000 images and/or documents during FY08.

In addition to the above, we have the following initiatives underway:

- Born Digital – an initiative that would provide education opportunities for people across the Minnesota, and reaching out to local government officials especially, about the practices and guidelines in dealing with ‘born digital’ objects.

- Curriculum Development – an initiative involving MnSCU and the University of Minnesota’s work with Pachyderm, an open source software package that MDL has also been working with to introduce *Minnesota Reflections* to K12 schools.