

Reports included below are:

- State Government Libraries, Karla Gedell
- State Universities, Joan Roca
- Multi-Type, Multi-County Library Systems, Ruth Solie
- Private Colleges, Dan Gjelten
- U of M Twin Cities Campus, Wendy Pradt Lougee
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State Government Libraries Report

Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library

September 7, 2007

CALCO -CALCO members celebrated at the annual CALCO Luncheon, held July 11 at the Perpich Center for Arts Education Glass Box. Bill DeJohn, Kathy Drozd, and Suzanne Miller were guests. Following the lunch, Jeanne Iverson, PCAE Librarian, provided a tour of the newly expanded (and incredibly interesting) PCAE Library.

CALCO librarians and ILL staff attended an Aleph ILL Refresher class at the University of Minnesota on August 1. Thank you to Agnes Lee for providing the customized training. We're always happy to share our unique resources with all Minnesota libraries!

Attorney General Library -*Anita Anderson, Law Librarian*

Anita Anderson and Karla Gedell attended the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, July 14-17. Hot topics included podcasting, training, pro se litigant self-help partnerships, and the ongoing changes in library services. Karla coordinated AALL attendance for the Minnesota chapter's VIP guests, Judges Kevin Burke and John Rodenberg. Both Anita and Karla had the opportunity to tour several New Orleans historical sites following the conference sessions.

The A.G. Library hosted a tour for the Minnesota State Law Library's Outreach (Law Library Service to Prisoners) staff on August 8, including Stephanie Thorson, Susan Trombley, Shari Ober, and intern Mary Scheid. The MSLL staff was happy to get more familiar with our collection and the AG staff was fascinated with the volume of requests filled for prisoners by this small staff. For a summary of LLSP activities, see their [2006 Annual Report](#).

The A.G. librarians are testing new office PC equipment, including flat-screen, tiltable monitors ([HP L2045w](#)). The monitors offer either landscape view or a view of an entire web page when physically moved to portrait mode. Very fine resolution is possible, but we've settled on 900x1600 (and there are two higher settings!). We'll let you know how Aleph appears in wide-screen format.

Dept. of Employment and Economic Development Library (DEED) -*Pat Fenton, Senior Librarian*

Our department has been working on the I35w bridge collapse. Library staff have done literature searches on the economic impacts of disasters and have provided a list of companies within a certain radius of the bridge.

Library staff have been visiting the department's various WorkForce Centers throughout the state to promote the DEED Library and provide database training.

Minnesota Historical Society -Kathryn Otto, Head of Reference

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) Library staff responded to the I-35W Bridge collapse by putting historical information about the bridge on their website. The day after the bridge collapse reference staff began looking for information in the collections. Kathryn Otto, head of the reference department, coordinated the effort to research the bridge and put the information on the [MHS website](#). The webpage includes vintage film of the bridge construction – which was given to all five Minneapolis-St. Paul TV stations and has also been used by Japanese public television – still photographs of construction, four of 119 plans for the bridge, and newspaper clippings. Interestingly, neither the MHS reference staff nor Heather Lawton at the Minneapolis Public Library could find a newspaper article from the actual opening of the bridge. Both were able to find articles from the Saturday before saying the bridge would open on the following Tuesday, but that Tuesday was the day after Christmas and yet another interstate bridge opening was apparently not news-worthy (the entire summer and fall of 1967 had been filled with various openings on I-94 and I-35W).

The construction plans, found by Archivist Shawn Rounds in the State Highway Dept. files, are the "original" copies of the plans on the [MnDOT webpage](#), a great resource. Six of the plans are now on display in the lobby of the MHS Library, along with several of the construction photographs. The plans will be on display through early October. The public can also view any of the 119 plans plus over 200 plans of the Lafayette Road Bridge. Full-size copies are available of any of the plans for \$10 each.

Mn/DOT Library -Jerry Baldwin, Director

Mn/DOT and MHS libraries worked together to get the Minnesota official state highway maps dated 1919-1949 scanned and included in the Minnesota Reflections collection. The maps can be seen at [this web site](#).

Minnesota Revenue Library -Donna Davis, Senior Librarian

The Office of Administrative Hearings' library collection will arrive at the MN Dept. of Revenue Library on Wednesday, Sept. 5. Their staff will be moving approximately Sept. 17-21.

The Minnesota Dept. of Revenue participated in the Minnesota State Fair with a booth in the Education Building. They answered questions, promoted electronic filing, and helped our Iraq veterans fill out Form M99 Credit for Military Service in a Combat Zone for a tax credit.

Minnesota State Law Library -Barbara Golden, State Law Librarian

We pass along this announcement from the Court which deserves wide distribution. **Minnesota Court Forms in PDF Now Fillable Online!** Over 400 court forms on the public MN Judicial Branch website (www.mncourts.gov/forms) are now in PDF fillable format. Users can open the forms with Adobe Reader, type information directly into the form, and use the **Tab key** to jump from blank to blank. To draw attention to the blanks that must be completed, the user can check a box called "**Highlight Fields**" at the top of the form. Forms must be completed and printed in one sitting. **Due to Adobe licensing restrictions, filled-out forms cannot be saved electronically.** With Adobe fillable forms the user can type information into the forms but cannot alter the standard language or format of the form. This PDF project was one of the goals identified by the Pro Se Strategic Planning Team to further the Judicial Council's efforts to expand pro se services and improve access to courts. A State Justice Institute (SJI) grant and matching state money funded this project.

The **Statewide Law Library/Self-Help Center Project Advisory Workgroup** report was presented to the Minnesota Judicial Council on June 28, 2007. Following one of the recommendations in the report, the State Law Library has negotiated an agreement with Thomson West for an inexpensive Westlaw contract available to Minnesota county law libraries which includes putting Westlaw into public libraries. The Westlaw package was developed for public patrons, self-represented litigants in particular, and will feature an easy-to-use interface that we are currently helping West to design. The report is posted at <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/StatewideLLReport.pdf>.

Justice Paul Anderson and Barbara Golden accepted the invitation of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) to attend a **National Summit on Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age**, held April 20-21 in Chicago. Minnesota's Revisor of Statutes, Michele Timmons, spoke at two sessions. The stimulating discussion reviewed the findings of the AALL publication *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online*

Legal Resources and explored legal and technological solutions to ensure that state online legal resources will be authenticated and trustworthy. Essentially the *Authentication Report* found a significant number of state online resources designated as “official” but none were authenticated. You can link to the full report and view the five-page agenda for the summit along with speaker presentations and other information at <http://www.aallnet.org/summit/default.asp>.

See our *virtual library tour* on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/9201331@N04/sets/72157600431218715/>.

Staff Changes: Laurel Steibler, Government Documents guru, has left the library after 20 years of service. Laurel’s job morphed into Government Documents/Reference Librarian and we are pleased to have Sheri Huppert in this position. We lost Randi Madisen, Head of Public and Electronic Services to Century College where she has summers off. We are currently interviewing for her replacement.

R. N. Barr Library -*Paul Elliott Dahl, Director*

Interagency Agreement Renewed -The R. N. Barr Library has renewed an interagency agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to provide library services for 12 months in FY2008. The first interagency agreement was tendered for just 6 months in FY2007.

Journals Taskforce -The first meeting of the Journals Taskforce occurred on August 3 at the Golden Rule location of the R. N. Barr Library. The members of the Journals Taskforce are Pam York, Roy Nelson, Janice Zarkin, Marcia Robert, Daniel Trantor, Richard Danila, Mary M. Johnson, Melanie Peterson-Hickey, Nancy Blume, Denton Peterson, Mark Smith, and Paul Dahl. Ruth Lynfield has also graciously filled in for Roy Nelson and Richard Danila when they were not able to attend. From the first meeting that provided some criteria to consider in journal selection cancellation (cost per request and copyright compliance royalty cost) the following 15 journal titles are under active consideration for subscription cancellation.

Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health	Journal of Medical Entomology
BMJ (British Medical Journal -- Online access only)	Journal of Public Health Policy
Cancer	Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics
Caring	Medical Reference Services Quarterly
Circulation	Occupational and Environmental Medicine
CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal)	Pediatrics
Inquiry	Vector Born and Zoonotic Diseases
Journal of Community Health	

The second and final meeting of the Journals Taskforce will be held on the morning of Friday, August 24 to make a final determination of the title subscriptions to be cancelled. Other titles may be also discussed and then accepted/rejected as titles to cancel.

Library Is a Net Lender -A recent examination of Inter-Library Loan (ILL) statistics kept from July 2006 through June 2007 reveal that the R. N. Barr Library sent 38 more articles to other libraries than what it received from other libraries. The final counts were 2,641 articles borrowed from other libraries compared to 2,679 articles lent to other libraries.

Library Mission Statement Changes -The mission statement of the R. N. Barr Library has undergone a slight revision and is now the following: *Striving to deliver the right resources at the right time.*

The mission statement was changed to become more economical in form since several words were unnecessary and one word was unrealistic in its demand. The mission statement previously appeared as “delivering the right information to the right people at the right time.”

Pick of the Week News -Two important milestones recently occurred for the Pick of the Week subscription list. Over 1,000 individuals now subscribe to this listing providing 8 journal article citations of note (articles may be requested for document delivery), an assorted number of noteworthy electronic resources, 1 recommended book, and 1 recommended video. Another value-added service was established by Richard Fong of the Communication Office in adding a Pick of the Week RSS Feed. Many thanks to Richard for providing this feed.

Staffing Change -Marie Jones, a key member of the R. N. Barr Library staff for over 7 years, has decided to transfer within MDH and will be working in the Immunization, Tuberculosis, and International Health Section. Marie begins her new position on Friday, August 24. All of us here in the Barr Library wish Marie the best as she embarks on this new employment opportunity. We will miss you!

Submitted by Karla Gedell, State Government Libraries Representative

State Universities Report

Joan Roca, Minnesota State University, Mankato

September 7, 2007

Metropolitan State University

No report at this time.

Bemidji State University

No report at this time. The Library is without a director, as Ron Edwards left BSU this past summer.

Minnesota State University Moorhead -Brittney Goodman, Library Director

Brittney Goodman was promoted to Associate VP for Instructional Resources and Dean of Distance Learning for MSU Moorhead. The Library, Instructional Technology, and Instructional Media remain a part of her responsibilities, but now, in addition, she will oversee the Distance Learning Fee, Grants administration, and Continuing Studies/Customized Training.

Plans for the redesign of the Library are underway, in the final phases of the predesign process.

The librarians have begun Chat Reference using the Meebo program during normal reference hours. In addition, Electronic Reserves has begun with several online programs, with anticipated opening up to entire campus in the Spring. See more at: <http://www.mnstate.edu/library/askalibrarian.htm>.

A talk by Minnesota Book Award winner, Jane Pejsa, who will speak about the writing and research process for the Livingston Lord Library Lecture Series, is scheduled for November 15 at 3:30 pm. She is author of several books, including *Matriarch of Conspiracy: Ruth Von Kleist, 1867-1945* and *The Final Encounter: Rommel, Patton, and Zhukov*.

Minnesota State University, Mankato -Joan Roca, Library Director

The university is experiencing an 8.3% increase in freshmen enrollees and there will be some challenges as the Library provides orientation sessions for students in the First Year Experience program.

Final data for the academic year showed some interesting numbers:

- An increase of 26.6% in the number of reference questions compared to five years ago
- A heavy volume of instruction sessions that reached more than 6,000 students

- A shift of \$200,000 from print subscriptions to electronic resources
- An impressive record of scholarly and creative activity by librarians: 35 book reviews; 27 presentations; 16 article publications; 3 members of editorial boards; 4 poster sessions; and 2 faculty research grants

The Library has expanded closing time to 2 a.m. Sunday-Thursday during the academic year.

Acquisitions and Cataloging have been merged into a new Technical Services Team, coordinated by Bobby Bothmann.

We have implemented Blackwell's Collection Manager to streamline electronic selection and ordering of book materials, downloading data directly into Aleph.

Southwest Minnesota State University -Sandy Fuhr, Library Director

SMSU Library purchased two Serials Solutions products, ArticleLinker & the 360 Central search. We'll be evaluating these new searching tools, plus assessing student feedback and reactions all year.

Maria Brandt accepted the Reference Coordinator and Interlibrary Loan position.

We currently are hosting a great traveling exhibit from the NLM & ALA: *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*.

St. Cloud State University -Kristi Tornquist, Library Director

SCSU has completed hiring of the following faculty librarian positions:

- Cataloger
- University Archivist
- Information literacy librarian
- 3 reference librarians

We are still searching for three additional professional positions (Collections librarian, E-Resources librarian, and Associate Dean)

SCSU begins our first applied doctorate cohort in Higher Education Administration this fall. We look forward to working with the students and faculty in this program.

SCSU welcomed a new president to campus on July 1st. With this change in leadership, I now attend President's Council meetings each week in my role as Dean of Learning Resources and Technology Services.

Winona State University

No report at this time.

Submitted by Joan Roca, State Universities Representative

Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Report

Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network

September 7, 2007

SMILE -Nancy Steele, Mankato

Packets of information about resources and services for the SMILE region are being sent to all members with new brochures and current information on procedures. The schedule for the two teleconference series from College of DuPage, *Soaring to Excellence* and *Library Challenges & Opportunities* are included. In addition, a flyer for an ELM and MnLINK searching and two resources training Workshops Reference Librarians at MINITEX, are scheduled for September 18 and 25. The first session is introduction and beginning searches and the second is on advanced searching techniques.

The Readers Advisory Group will meet on September 12 at 9 am. The topics are *Forthcoming Holiday Books: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa* and *New Books on Christmas Customs around the World*. The bibliographies produced by the group are available as pdf files on the SMILE website or from the SMILE Office.

The American Sign Language story-telling programs resume in October. A list of the dates is in the packet. Hearing families and children are also invited and can enjoy a live storyteller. ASL Interpreters from SOCRATES are donating their time.

SMILE is planning its annual Legislative forum with our legislators for later this fall so that it is before the session begins. The planning will be done by the Advisory Committee. We have had a good turnout by legislators in previous years. The SMILE director and Acting TdS Director met with the newly elected Mankato legislators and Margaret Anderson Kelliher to thank them for their support during the last session and provide information about the libraries in the region.

SMILE is offering honorariums to enable attendance at professional conferences this October and Incentive grants in the spring for projects that involve more than one type of library and a Discount ALA Graphics order in October.

Metronet –Ann Walker Smalley, St Paul

Tom Shaughnessy retired on August 30. Ann Walker Smalley began as the new Metronet Director on August 27.

A report of Year 1 of the Metronet Information Literacy Project (MILP) is now available online http://www.metrolibraries.net/pro/milp_final_report.html

Another product of the first year of MILP “Information Literacy Dribbling Lessons” (<http://www.metrolibraries.net/pro/dribbling.html>) is available. This is a compilation of information literacy lessons available on the Web that teachers and media specialists can easily “dribble” into their teaching. The lessons were compiled by Metronet’s MILP intern Karen Eidem.

Metronet is beginning Year 2 of its Information Literacy Project. Five Saint Paul Public High Schools will participate. These school-based learning communities will be lead by the Library Media Specialist and have at least three teachers as members. Metronet is developing a learning structure based on 23 Things/Library Learning 2.0 focused on Information Literacy “Things” that will provide the foundation for the orientation and training sessions that all participants attend. This “Information Literacy Things” structure will be useful to any multitype or other organization that is interested in doing an information literacy project with their local schools.

Metronet is in conversation with Minneapolis Public Schools as a possible participant in the Metronet Information Literacy Project.

CLIC (Cooperating Libraries in Consortium) and Metronet are beginning to discuss how high school media specialists and academic librarians can come together to share what is information literacy skills are taught in high school and what students need to know when they get to college. The outcome is expected to be a conference or meeting series that addresses these issues and how librarians from different organizations can work together.

Metronet is sponsoring the WebJunction professional table at the Minnesota Library Association Conference. State Library Services, MINITEX Library Information Network and Metronet sponsor WebJunction Minnesota.

Central MN Libraries Exchange (CMLE) - *Patricia Post, St. Cloud*

- Migrated to the Aleph ILL software, as a subunit of St. Cloud State University on July 1, 2007. As expected, this changes all internal processes and procedures, which created a focus area.
- Made hardware changes on all student machines for compatibility with Aleph ILL.
- Three student workers assist in supplying our ILL services. Training documents and staff time were invested here in starting a new school year.
- After many discussions, East Central Regional Library agreed to a one year trial of a collaborative delivery effort. This enables K-12's in our eastern six counties to request materials through CMLE (often from local academics), which are zipped into purple nylon zip bags, then included in SCSU's MINITEX tubs. When the bags arrive at ECRL headquarters, they are sorted onto the delivery van to the public library branches. The combination of our software migration and this delivery service will enable us to provide statistics to MINITEX about its role in serving K-12's in these six counties. This is one of our four delivery systems; the local one through a Last Mile Grant to SCSU from MINITEX.
- Many retirements are happening in some of our key schools. Relationship building and introduction to our many services with new recruits is a focus.
- Negotiations of vendor discounts for our member libraries
- Discussions/meetings continue about a consortial buy of library management software (Destiny)
- Planning for the CMLE Annual Meeting is at its peak. Author will be Will Weaver.

SAMMIE -*Robin Chaney, Marshall*

We are anticipating exciting happenings in the SAMMIE region this year. The excitement is generated by the recently completed Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Partnership [PSP Partners] Study and the increase in funding approved during the 2007 MN Legislative session. Thank you Minnesota Legislators!

In FY2008, SAMMIE will conduct a two pronged planning effort. We will develop a new Strategic Plan, FY2009-FY2011, to assure that we use our increased funds effectively. SAMMIE will also lead the PSP Partners planning for effective services to youth on Southwest Minnesota.

North Country Library Cooperative -*Linda Wadman, Mountain Iron*

Over the summer what seems to be annual change IP addresses occurred with Arrowhead Library System making changes in providers to address network problems and increase bandwidth for libraries for which they provide internet service and/or an integrated library system. For us the address changes mean schools come back to find that they must make changes use the ILS and databases. NCLC also must make changes to our networked computers, and networked printers/copier/fax machines. There's always some little quirk that shows up late and needs to be figured out. During the summer slowdown with schools not in session, we try to get our computer maintenance done.

NCLC sent notes of thank to the legislators chiefly responsible for libraries doing so well in the past legislative session with a very nice response from Rep. Tom Rukavina.

The annual NCLC audit is in progress. With the audit figures we can then begin to fill out our report of results for State Library Services. We will attempt to incorporate the suggestions made by Bruce Pomerantz of State Library Services into the document where possible.

Interlibrary loan request slowed minimally this year when school got out with an increase from special libraries. Reference requests also increased.

NCLC has initiated a scholarship program to allow library staff to attend professional conferences, events and training. Two scholarships were awarded last year and with the new year, additional scholarships will be available.

School is beginning and it is time to get our back to school packet of information and newsletter ready for distribution. We also need to get our directory information up to date. Bruce Pomerantz will be using

this information to contact school librarians about the new on-line school library media center annual report and be using online meetings to explain the need for the report and its use.

NLLN –Ruth Solie, Detroit Lakes

NLLN has been using OPAL webconferencing software for meetings, small trainings, and experimentation for communication. So far, it has been very exciting and will be an additional tool for delivery of training and for small group meetings. Sessions can be archived and include MP3 recordings of audio, web sharing, and text messaging. The audio is voice over IP which eliminates the need for a telephone connection. The subscription is \$500 per year and is proving to be very useful as well as valuable.

We conducted a very successful “Back to School Special” workshop for staff in our school media centers. Jennifer Hootman presented “Web Pages: without cost or code” along with an overview of MINITEX services and provided ELM registration assistance; Bruce Pomerantz presented an update on the new School Media Center Annual Report; Mary Garlie promoted MEMO events and membership; Chris McArthur reviewed “What’s New in Destiny 7.0 and 7.5”. It was a good day and 38 people attended.

We continue to add new members to the North Star Library Consortium, including the Leech Lake Tribal College, Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs, and 2 churches in Alexandria.

We have begun conversations with Follett regarding the Destiny program, consortium issues, pricing, and options for expanding our North Star Library Consortium.

We have been in conversation with representatives from several reservations concerning library services on the reservations, early literacy, education, and parent training. Several small grants have enabled us to continue working with the White Earth Early Childhood Programs to increase print resources available to pre-school children, parents, and caregivers on that reservation. We are investigating the possibility of pursuing a one-time Family Friend and Neighbor school readiness grant as authorized by the legislature this past session.

I have met with local legislators to thank them for their support, to show them how additional revenues are being used for expanded library services, and to encourage their future support. They will continue to support library issues; they are very aware of the impact of LGA cuts have had on libraries.

SELS –Ann Hutton, Rochester (No Multitype Report; see SELCO in Public Library System Report)

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

Private Colleges Report

Dan Gjelten, University of St. Thomas

September 7, 2007

Bethany Lutheran College –Orrin Ausen, Library Director

Over the summer, Bethany installed a 3M Library Security System and tagged collection with RFID tags. We tagged 65,000 plus materials under a month.

We also redesigned our library webpage and implemented Research QuickStart as a major component to provide patrons an access point to assist them with their research.

Our webpage: <http://www.blc.edu/library>

CLIC Libraries –Dan Gjelten, Director, University of St. Thomas Library

CLIC is engaged in a yearlong investigation of the future of the ILS. The initiative involves the work of many

CLIC staff from all libraries looking into user needs and the range of possible solutions, including new discovery applications, open source applications, vended systems and others. The project will result in a report of findings at the end of the academic year. The project team will solicit involvement from other academic libraries and systems in the state.

CLIC is searching for a new Executive Director.

St. Ben's/St. John's -*Kathleen Parker, Library Director*

Like lots of academic libraries we are examining how best to offer reference service, looking beyond the traditional staffed reference desk model. Here's how Jim Parsons, our AD for Public Services summarizes it:

We've had a fairly traditional "just in case" reference staffing arrangement for quite some time - librarians (and some paraprofessionals) sitting behind a desk nearly 60 hours/week on each of our two campuses, along with an "Ask A Librarian" service (using general IM services) during all our reference hours.

Starting this fall semester, we're implementing a new reference structure which includes some hours where we are only available via IM/Ask a Librarian (mornings), on-call during the afternoon, and staffed desk hours during evenings and Sunday afternoon. (Our Ask a Librarian service continues to be available during all our reference hours). In addition, we plan to have a librarian hang out in our two dining service locations, complete with laptop, for the busy lunch and early afternoon. This is all an attempt to make ourselves more available - both virtually and in-person - to our students and faculty. We've installed Meebo "widget" on our home page as well (<http://www.csbsju.edu/library/>) which we expect will generate a large increase in our virtual reference traffic.

As you can see, we're trying to do a lot of different things all at once. We're considering all of these efforts to be experimental at this point - I expect that we will make revisions as we go along.

Submitted by Dan Gjelten, Private Colleges Representative

University of Minnesota, TC Report

Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota, TC

September 7, 2007

Recent Programs and Projects

University Digital Conservancy -In August, the Libraries launched the Digital Conservancy, a program to help campus individuals and units manage digital assets. The service has a dual focus on resources that would fall within the domain of the University Archives (e.g., university publications, reports, faculty papers) as well as unit-managed digital collections that require preservation. Some university records were digitized in advance of the launch. (see: <http://conservancy.umn.edu/>)

Scholarly Communications Collaborative -The Libraries' program to inform and engage the campus in discussions relating to scholarly communications has released a revised web service: Transforming Scholarly Communications. Issues associated with authors' rights and other emergent issues are incorporated.

<http://www.lib.umn.edu/scholcom/>

What: Public Talk: What Does 'America' Mean Today?

Who: [Lewis H. Lapham](#)

Where: [Willey Hall Auditorium](#), University of Minnesota

When: October 4, 2007, 7 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public. Advance tickets required: 612-624-1528 or jfbell@umn.edu

As part of the 500th anniversary celebration of the James Ford Bell Library's [Waldseemüller goes globe](#), acclaimed writer and scholar **Lewis Lapham** discusses how the meaning of 'America' has changed in the half-millennium since the word first appeared on Waldseemüller's map. Lapham is editor of the new *Lapham's Quarterly*, host of the radio program "The World in Time," longtime editor and now national correspondent and contributor to *Harper's* magazine, and author of several books, including *Theater of War*. A dessert reception will follow.

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

Regional System Libraries Report

Peg Werner, Director, Viking Library System

September 7, 2007

Arrowhead Library System

Arrowhead Library System and its member libraries recently agreed to share the cost of providing access to the *ReferenceUSA* database. ALS has also begun to provide downloadable audiobooks from Overdrive for all of its member libraries. They are also planning to add a "telephone messaging" component to the Horizon ILS.

East Central Regional Library

ECRL successfully completed its director search by hiring Barb Misselt, formerly the assistant director at SELCO. Barb will start her new duties September 17th. East Central continues to negotiate with SirsiDynix over moving to Unicorn or choosing another vendor altogether.

Great River Regional Library

The GRRL Board of Trustees approved a 2008 budget with a 6.99 % increase over 2007. Most of the increases went to the personnel budget. The library has renewed its annual contract with NetLibrary for downloadable audio books. The most popular download in 2006 was "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown. Saturday, July 21, was the day of the "flying wizard delivery drivers" as staff gathered at 4:00 AM to complete processing on 65 copies of the newest Harry Potter book and then to fly them off to the appropriate branches to deliver the moment the doors opened on Saturday morning.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library

LARL staff has recently completed a written documentation of their entire automation system set-up, maintenance procedures and recurring issues procedures. The project took 15 months, \$6,000 and lots of staff time. LARL is testing self-checkout at the Moorhead branch with reportedly good results so far. They have an 87% average use after only 2 months! Barnesville continues their Library of the Future project as they look at remodeling, expansion and improvement.

MELSA

MELSA is working on the second year of their very popular Museum Adventure Pass project; putting into place all of the tricks they learned during the first year. Some of the new RLBSS dollars will be used to purchase the Historical New York Times database for the use of all member libraries.

Northwest Regional Library

Northwest is again sponsoring their “Every Child Ready to Read” workshops. Thief River Falls is extending their pilot “Guys Read” project with a Chess Club, a Guys Read Corner and an Anime Club. A pilot self-check station was installed at Thief River and also proved to be successful.

Pioneerland Regional Library

PLS is working on a new 3-4 year PC replacement schedule. The library system has also recently installed wireless networks in 31 of their 32 libraries. The PLS Board approved the 2008 budget at a 5.8% increase.

Plum Creek Library System

Plum Creek is preparing to migrate from TLC to SirsiDynix sometime in November. They are uncertain at this point whether they will go live on Unicorn or Symphony. PCLS is purchasing a new delivery van, with the more space that all delivery systems are requiring since the launch of MnLINK place holds.

SELCO

SELCO launched a new website with new graphics that they have carried into other pr pieces. SELCO is conducting new director orientation for six new directors that have recently been hired by the member libraries.

Traverse des Sioux Library System

TdS has completed their second round of director searches without finding a new director. They have not yet decided on a new course of action. TdS recently added Martin Luther College to their Unicorn ILS. TdS continues to test NCIP software with some success. TdS, along with other local libraries, will be hosting the 2007 MLA Annual Conference in Mankato.

Viking Library System

Viking Library System hired Mary Millard from New London to design its new website. The website is part of a larger marketing project being undertaken by all of the member library directors. All member libraries are reporting being overwhelmed by wireless customers this summer. Wireless access has been in place throughout VLS for three years so it’s a debate as to whether the summer people just heard about it, or whether they suddenly all bought laptops.

Submitted by Peg Werner, Regional System Libraries Representative

Public Libraries Report

Mary Lukkarila, Director, Cloquet Public Library

September 7, 2007

Arrowhead Library System

Arrowhead Library System residents now have access to downloadable audiobooks. The contract is with Overdrive for downloadable audiobooks.

Cloquet Public Library -Mary Lukkarila, Director

The Cloquet Public Library, along with the Carlton and Moose Lake Public Libraries and the Arrowhead Library System are partnering with the Carlton County Historical Society for **The Big Read** in Carlton County. Our book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The kickoff event will be held on October 15 at the Carlton County Courthouse with readings from the book. Several activities have been planned for October and November.

New flooring was installed in the library offices, meeting room, and kitchen. Instead of carpet or vinyl, we chose a ceramic tile. We are hoping to install carpet tiles in the rest of the library this fall.

We will be having a chocolate fountain and musical entertainment for 20th anniversary celebration of our "new" building in October. A wish book will be available for those who might be interested in helping us purchase furniture and items that have worn out.

East Grand Forks Public Library -Charlotte Helgeson, Director

We have a busy fall planned. We will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage the last week in September with a video documentary created by a graduate UND student just for us about the Quiceanera celebration(both here and in Mexico), salsa dancing, traditional food and crafts. We are also beginning a series of workshops with older female artisans teaching their traditional crafts to young women in our community with financial assistance from a Women's Fund grant. Lauraine Snelling will visit in October.

We are challenging ourselves to refit our library with a thin client computer solution.

We are currently displaying a 2' X 5' wood relief carving of the last paddleboat to travel the Red River which was created by four carvers at the library and is now part of our permanent collection.

Excelsior Public Library -Jane Stein, Adult Services Librarian

We did a "One Book One Community" event. The Friends of the Excelsior Library, the local book store, Excelsior Bay Books, the SouthShore Senior Center and the Excelsior Fire District hosted author, Michael Perry. We read his nonfiction book **Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time**. A discussion was held and questions came up that we could ask the author. He came a week later to tour the fire station, join us for a community picnic and then he entertained us with his wit and wisdom and, of course, answer our questions. We had some of the Carver County Library customers join us, in the Hennepin county system, for this event.

Rochester Public Library -Audrey Betcher, Director

The Rochester Public Library continues to be a very busy place. We have implemented many merchandising techniques in the last six month including new face out shelving, new end panels, and new gondolas. This has been very well received. The big project on our horizon is implementing automated materials handling. We hope to go live in the March/April 2008 timeframe.

SELCO -Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran, Community Information Librarian

The biggest news for the southeastern region is the recent flooding we experienced. While our libraries are dry (thank goodness!) a number of them have been used as the command centers for their respective towns. One librarian was even asked who in town was on oxygen - doesn't the librarian know that? (It's amazing what we're expected to know....)

More information about the flooding can be found on the SELCO website: <http://www.selco.info/flood-recovery-information/>