

6. MINITEX Director's Report

Go Local --- stress local libraries' involvement with community....

We stressed this at the last meeting of the Advisory Council, but I wanted to be sure you knew that this site should be distributed to local community groups in addition to being on any library webpage. Having it on community group website provides access to health information.

MINITEX Virtual Reference Statewide Project . We are in the midst of launching Phase One of this project, which included invitations to those academic and public libraries that either have experience or had experience with offering either virtual reference software services to their customers or "IM" services to their customers. We are gathering a small but dedicated group of experienced library staff who will help define how we move forward. Since we are paying for the cost of this project, we are being selective in who we initially involve. Currently, there are six academic and three public libraries involved. It's a smaller number than I would like, but then, in Minnesota, this has not been an activity widely embraced by the library community. After the initial process, we will move to Phase Two where we will invite other interested libraries to participate. We are using OCLC's QuestionPoint which will provide 24x7 coverage and we still have plans to add this service to ELM and MnLINK Gateway websites.

Research Project Calculator has been enhanced and is now available at <http://www.rpc.elm4you.org> . This has a teacher component so we'll be pushing out to the teaching community. Information about the RPC was enclosed in the packet sent to members over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Pilot projects I visited the NE Higher District two year college librarians on November 16th and identified several small useful projects that we may undertake. I'll report more during the meeting.

Someone asked how we were planning to use the additional funds provided by the Legislature. These are the approximate costs we are planning to cover in FY08. These are our plans on using the additional funding (\$1,250,000) from the MN Legislature:

(Over)

- **\$215,000. Add a database to the ELM** suite of databases. We have thought of some health database to complement the Go Local Minnesota which has MedlinePlus health information.
- **\$240,000. Covering increased staff costs for compensation; increase in benefits**, thereby avoiding a potential reduction in database subsidies and reduction in services; This helps maintain current levels of service performance to participating libraries. Also moving staff from reserve funding to operational funding.
- **\$100,000. Continuing subsidies** of scholarly databases for MN academic libraries.
- **\$15,000. Purchasing a new Microfilm/microfiche scanner** with capabilities that will allow improvements in image quality, speed of operation, and distribution capabilities (transmitting via the Internet), all of which will reduce staff time. This will allow us to provide many more pages per requests of fiche to paper copies for material that is only available on fiche, thereby reducing the number of requests we have been unable to fulfill as most fiche collections do not circulate
- **\$68,839. Meeting inflation rates** from ELM vendors
- **\$115,000. Adding two library assistants to Document Delivery** to process requests and support MnLINK Gateway activity. Plus additional student staff.
- **\$125,000. Replacing computers** and servers
- **\$15,000. Supporting increase in Delivery courier contracts** including increases due to fuel surcharges.
- **\$60,000. Supporting Minnesota Digital Library** which includes staffing and hardware and software maintenance, thus freeing up some of the LSTA grant funds for increased scanning of objects.
- **\$110,000. Technology infrastructure staff** related to the MnLINK mission
- **\$186,161** Contingency planning and special pilot projects.