

Reports included below are:

- State Universities, Joan Roca
- Public Libraries Report, Mary Lukkarila
- Community Colleges, Virginia Heinrich
- Private Colleges, Dan Gjelten
- U of M Twin Cities Campus, Wendy Pradt Lougee
- Multi-Type, Multi-County Library Systems, Patricia Post
- Regional System Libraries, Peg Werner
- University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus, Bill Sozansky
- State Government Libraries, Karla Gedell
- County Libraries, Pat Conley
- Technical Colleges, Pat Akerman

State Universities Report

Joan Roca, Minnesota State University, Mankato

December 12, 2008

Metropolitan State University - *David Barton, Library Director*

The Library Endowment Fund, which was started nearly five years ago, has reached its goal of \$1,000,000. We look forward to receiving an annual allotment from the fund.

We are in the process of hiring two faculty librarians to replace two who left last year. In January we plan to start a search for another librarian as we will experience a phased retirement, a maternity leave, and two semester sabbaticals during the next fiscal year.

Xcel Energy has begun soil borings to install a 90 foot wind turbine on the grounds just west of the library. They did testing and determined that the wind blows sufficiently long and strong here to provide enough electricity to power the library building. Of course, we are down wind from the State Capitol.

Bemidji State University -*Stu Rosselet, Library Director*

No report at this time.

Minnesota State University Moorhead - *Brittney Goodman, Associate V.P. and Dean*

Mary Brunsdale, a long-time Fixed Term reference librarian, will be retiring at the end of fall semester. She has worked in a variety of capacities at MSU Moorhead, including cataloging, government documents cataloging/processing, Curriculum Materials Center, and primarily as a reference librarian. The Library will also be losing a long-time classified staff member, Clare Hauck, Acquisition, Library Technician. Her retirement is anticipated in April or May of 2009. The Library is part of MSUM's hiring freeze, so will not be able to replace these positions next year, but we hope to be able to in the future.

The MSU Moorhead Library is also making preparations for a first floor "Learning Commons" and an extensive library building renovation to occur in 2011. We are working with BKV Architects out of Minneapolis on this project.

Jean Kramer, Technical Services Supervisor and Reference Librarian, will be giving a MSU Moorhead Dean's Lecture on February 9, 2009, on the topic of "Online Identity and Privacy."

Minnesota State University, Mankato – *Joan Roca, Dean*

No report at this time (nothing new since last report).

Southwest Minnesota State University – *Kathleen Ashe, University Librarian*

SMSU Library made the switch from LibProxy to ExProxy to provide access for our off-campus students to the subscription databases. We also replaced Article Linker from Serials Solutions with OCLC's Link Manager offered through PALS at a significant cost savings.

Managing and providing services for our off-campus students particularly the 3,000+ concurrent enrollment high school students newly added to our patron database is a constant challenge. Our immediate goal is to provide several short, to the point video segments highlighting specific skills needed for research which will be available through our website. The first tutorial went up last week and we have several more in the pipeline. A future goal is a complete revision of the library's website.

We continue to see significant numbers of students coming to the Reference Desk for research appointments and also with general questions.

St. Cloud State University – *Kristi Tornquist, Dean*

Over the summer the library redesigned the library web page with a user-centered approach. The feedback thus far has been very supportive.

We are completing a project begun last summer that moved our Governments Documents collection to the basement, and our print journals to a more centralized area in the library. The next phase of our space deliberations will be to consider moves that provide relief to various overcrowded areas for LR&TS staff and faculty.

We continue to support the Minnesota Reflections initiative through the statewide Minnesota Digital Library. They are investigating ways to use software that would support more social commentary around the collection.

We are moving forward with our Information Literacy initiative. We have gotten a new 1 credit class, IM 111, approved as an elective in the curriculum.

Winona State University – *Thomas Bremer, Dean*

Early in the semester we established (or rather re-established) a Curriculum Collection within the library. Over 200 boxes were moved from their previous campus location and brought to the library during a very hot week. Materials were then examined, processed, weeded, cataloged, and shelved in a newly created section within the library.

We are revising and updating our Library Goals and Objectives. Part of the impetus for doing this comes from campus wide accreditation preparation, while another part stems from recognition that our goals and objectives are somewhat out of date.

This past semester we welcomed two new library technicians, Nathan Wardinski (Information Gallery) and Mackenzie Morning (Access Services), to our staff. We are currently searching for another recently vacated Access Services position. However, the state's constantly evolving financial picture, and WSU's ultimate response to it, may require us to place filling this position on hold.

Submitted by Joan Roca, State Universities Representative

Public Libraries Report
Mary Lukkarila, Director, Cloquet Public Library
December 12, 2008

Blue Earth Community Library

The Blue Earth Community Library started checking out (in-house) laptops for our patrons to access our wifi network. We have five laptops which we allow patrons 18 and older to checkout and use in the library. This has helped tremendously in space need requirements as well as meeting demand for public access computers. Our program has been well received by the public.

Cloquet Public Library -*Mary Lukkarila, Director*

The new circulation desk and custom made furniture is now installed. An open house was held on December 4 to celebrate the new look. The renovations have made the 20 year old library look new again. Half of the financing of the \$100,000 in renovations was provided through the city's capital outlay budget and half through

the library's foundation. Plans for a new reference desk are on hold as the economy has taken a downturn. We still are hopeful that a teen advisory board can help us with grants for a teen area.

Northfield Public Library --Lynne Young, Director

"Too Cool for School" event at the library - local teen garage bands played at the library in a coffee-house setting. This was accomplished with the help of a grant from the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative and the support of the Northfield Public Library Teen Advisory Board, the Mayor's Youth Council and the Northfield Union of Youth. (Great time was had by all 75+ kids who attended.)

Teen area at the library sports a new mural - Kathy Ness, Children's Programming Librarian, cut out full-size silhouettes of the Teen Advisory Board members and painted them on the walls in different shades of blue. The area also has new furniture provided by the Friends of the Library (with funds raised at their 2nd annual spelling bee in 2007).

New display shelving has been installed on both levels of the library. CDs will be moved upstairs near the teen area.

SELCO is negotiating with Aquabrowser for our next-generation catalog. A number of SELCO libraries are collaborating to purchase TumbleBooks.

Rochester Public Library -Audrey Betcher, Director

We have had fabulous success with our implementation of Tutor.com. We had an implementation team of librarians, school personnel, and our communications staff. In September, our first month of use, we had 715 tutoring sessions. In October we had 845 tutoring sessions. We have developed an unprecedented partnership with school districts in our service area. Our in-library homework assistance program has grown as well.

In October we brought up online payments. In November we made some major changes to our network and changed the phone system so that we are now VOIP.

The budget will be much tighter this year, but we will be maintaining programs, hours, and services.

Not many libraries reporting this time as I got a late start in sending out requests for information. I think it is safe to say that most libraries are working on budgets and making presentations to local authorities. Levy limits are proving to be a problem for many public library budgets in 2009.

Submitted by Mary Lukkarila, Public Libraries Representative

Community Colleges Report

Virginia Heinrich, Interim Library Director, Minneapolis Community & Technical College

December 12, 2008

University Center Rochester -Dale Pedersen, Library Director

In November, 2008, Goddard Library at the University Center Rochester added our first streaming videos to the collection. Currently about 65 streaming videos are available from the library webpage to all campus computers and laptops in Flash format. Soon streaming videos should also be available via proxy server authentication for UCR students and staff at off campus computers. Plans are for some locally produced videos to be available to the world.

Minnesota State Community & Technical College -Perry Werner, Library Director

Collection Development Librarian Julie Setnosky is serving on the MINITEX Electronic Information Resources Task Force and Librarian Jennifer Sippel was recently appointed to be on the newly formed statewide Continuing Education Committee.

We continue our streaming audio show on BlogTalkRadio (<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/metc-library>). Shows this fall included interviews with Lisa Ray, Executive Director of Parents for Ethical Marketing, and Kao Kalia Yang, author of *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*.

Submitted by Ginny Heinrich, Community Colleges Representative

Private Colleges Report

Dan Gjelten, University of St. Thomas
December 12, 2008

Bethany Lutheran College -Orrin Ausen, Library Director

The bad economic situation is affecting our budgets. Administration has called for department heads to submit a reduction proposal for our operational and collection budgets. This is a campus-wide proactive approach to lessen the pain for FY2009-10. It is frustrating to try and operate with declining budgets.

We have started our extended hours for finals preparation and operating as usual.

Carleton College -Sam Demas, Library Director

Carleton library building is approaching its collection capacity and we completed a report on short-term space planning that recommends installment of additional compact shelving. We are working with colleagues at St. Olaf to implement MetaLib federated search. The Northfield History Collaborative, comprising Carleton, St. Olaf, the public library, and two historical societies, are working together to digitize materials related to Northfield history and to present on a common platform. This common platform will be harvested by and become part of the MN Historical Society's Great Rivers Cultural Heritage site.

We continue to add local content to the Carleton Digital Collections site:

<http://apps.carleton.edu/digitalcollections/>

The campus has established a digital archiving group to work with college departments that produce digital records to strengthen the college's capacity and coordinate its efforts to identify, archive and provide access to digital assets of long-term value to the college community. It is a long term effort, but we are making a systematic start on digital archiving.

Concordia University -Charlotte Knoche, Library Director

Funded by a Bush Grant, we had several campus wide faculty meetings - and every faculty person had to select 2 out of 4 areas (Service learning, Student research, First Year Seminar, & Information Literacy) to incorporate into their course. While we were at a profitability of only working with 50% of the faculty, that is more than we had reached before. Results were also a bit mixed - with some working more intensely with us than others - but we reached a lot more faculty than ever before because of this. Another result is that they now realize we can tailor the IL classes/workshops to their discipline so that students shouldn't have to see the same presentation in every class. One the one hand, it feels a bit like we are running ourselves ragged - but on the other hand, we are pleased with the results. Still a long way to go, of course, but the support from the top and the buy-in from the faculty (even if it was forced at times) was a huge factor for success.

CLIC Libraries -Dan Gjelten

CLIC is in final negotiations for a discovery layer and is planning on completing the process by the end of December and implementing the product before the start of the spring semester.

The consortium will be launching a search for an executive director in January, as well, and will have the posting prepared prior to ALA Midwinter.

College of St. Benedict/St. John's University -Kathy Parker, Library Director

CSB/SJU is now in the testing and acceptance phase of a WorldCat Local implementation. We expect to have this service up and running as the main interface to our catalog by the start of Spring semester.

<http://csbsju.worldcat.org/>.

Gustavus Adolphus College --Barbara Fister, Library Director

Our campus is engaged in strategic planning, which is great for creative thinking but a little surreal given the economic situation. We just rewrote our mission and vision statements and are working on goals and strategic initiatives, many of which will probably happen with or without money.

I just gave a talk to the ALA OITP advisory council - they were talking about open access, and the chair asked me to talk about mass book digitization, so I did, though I'm no expert. Still, interesting times with the Google settlement. <http://homepages.gac.edu/~fister/OITP.html>

And speaking of access, we just made a small change to our library's website. All of the pages (at least those in our standard template) now carry a Creative Commons license.

Martin Luther College --Dave Gosdeck, Library Director

We have completely redesigned our website and I have added some staff time to continue with the ongoing work of maintaining and upgrading our web presence.

We have entirely redesigned our library's presentation page for access to our catalog holdings in the Traverse de Sioux regional library system.

University of Saint Thomas --Dan Gjelten, Library Director

The UST Libraries conducted the LibQual survey this fall and are beginning to analyze the data. The survey is part of an ongoing assessment program that also includes library consultation and influence on surveys that are part of the regular program of institutional research.

We are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the construction of the O'Shaughnessy Library and are taking advantage of the occasion to leverage our tradition and the LibQual data to launch us into the future. We'll be having a series of events celebrating the work of the libraries and raising consciousness on campus regarding information access, the library as place and the importance of information literacy skills and training.

We have hired a web developer to support digital initiatives, including developing an effective interactive and informative web presence, and managing digital assets.

We are currently preparing to test the feasibility of streaming our most used video and audio assets over the network.

Submitted by Dan Gjelten, Private Colleges Representative

University of Minnesota, TC Report
Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota, TC
December 12, 2008

Recent Programs and Projects

Assignment Calculator -- Major Upgrade -The Digital Library Development Lab is working on a new version of the popular Assignment Calculator tool. The new version includes multiple assignment-type templates, the ability to change the dates for each step to reflect actual due dates, the ability to add/remove/rearrange individual assignment steps, and the option to add personal notes in each step, among other features. The response from early testers has been very positive. We plan on releasing a beta version in early January and releasing this version, too, as an open source application.

"Hidden" Collection Projects -Special projects are underway to catalog unprocessed collections in the Forestry Library, Map Library, and Children's Literature Research Collection.

Archives and Special Collections -The Department of Archives and Special Collections promoted the use of archival materials by undergraduates this fall by participating in the HIST3959 "How to do history" course.

Now required for the senior paper, the course aims to introduce students to the use of archival materials for their research. The course is completed by about 80 students each fall and spring semester.

Process Improvements achieved in Serials and E-resources -The Libraries completed an 18-month process improvement project that focused on serials and e-resources. The results have included significant simplification of print journal processing, consolidation of serial orders with a single vendor, cancellation of 98 multiple subscription orders, and move to e-only for titles that meet specified criteria and resulting cancellation of over 2,600 print subscriptions.

Users are Getting It! -In March 2008, the Libraries introduced functionality in the catalog to click on a desired book and get it paged and delivered. The Get It (book paging/delivery to offices and between campus libraries) service numbers demand has grown steadily, topping 7000 requests for October 2008. On average that means that 350 requests flow through the system each day. Of the 7022 requests that were made in October, 52% were delivered to another library location, 11% were delivered to an office location, and 37% were requests for items to be paged within a location.

Libraries new Fee Based Service - InfoNow! -Libraries staff have been working to combine the U of M Libraries fee-Based services ESTIS (Engineering Science and Technology Information Service) and BIS (Biomedical Information Service). Both services currently provide external, generally corporate customers with document delivery and varying levels of research services. A great deal of work has been completed over the course of the past year including a combined fee structure, aligned policies, a single staffing plan, and a shared service philosophy. Currently an implementation group is working with a software developer to customize software for the new service and another group is working to finalize marketing and communication plans. Look for the new service in early 2009.

Partnerships for Student Success -Libraries held an Information Fair for International Students on November 18 in Walter Library. Library staff met with students about a wide range of topics including the SMART Commons, effective use of Google for library research, how to find books and articles, and RefWorks and Endnote. Libraries also held a six week program called "Bridge to Academic Excellence" designed specifically for students who have little or no experience of how college or university systems operate. Students who attend will come to campus the summer, prior to their first fall semester, to learn more about campus and enroll in University classes. FFI: <http://www.bridgetoexcellence.umn.edu/>

University Digital Conservancy (UDC) Includes E-Dissertations Effective December 1, 2008 -The UDC now includes electronic dissertations and will include e-theses in the future. This will be of significance because the UDC e-copy will be the Libraries only copy, and will be the version used for ILL requests, etc. Dissertations will also continue to be deposited with in ProQuest.

Student Art Featured in University Libraries: -Nine graduate students from the Department of Art are included in the "Art in the Libraries" 2008 exhibition: Pathos & Simulacra. The work is installed in Wilson Library and throughout the Music Library in Ferguson Hall. The works depict a combined somber attitude that explores the uneasiness between the turbulence and idealization of our current global situation.

Upcoming & Current Events: -<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events>

Robert Bly in This World

What: A creative academic conference to celebrate poet Robert Bly's wide-ranging, transformative influence—in poetry, translation, political protest, the Men's Movement, and cultural transformation

Where: University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

When: Thursday, April 16—Sunday, April 19, 2009

Location and registration details to be posted as they become available.

NOMMO African American Authors Series

Where: Cowles Auditorium, [Hubert H. Humphrey Center](#)

When: All events begin at 7:00 p.m. Dates detailed below.

Order tickets: www.tickets.umn.edu, phone or in person also available

February 5, 2009: John Edgar Wideman -John Edgar Wideman is the author of more than 18 books of fiction and nonfiction. He was the first writer to win the PEN/Faulkner Award twice, in 1984 for *Sent for You Yesterday* and in 1990 for *Philadelphia Fire*. His memoir, *Brothers and Keepers* received a National Book Critics Circle nomination, and his memoir *Fatheralong* was a finalist for the National Book Award. Wideman's articles on Malcolm X, Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, Michael Jordan, Eminem, Thelonious Monk, and others have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *Emerge*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. Wideman is on the faculty of the African Studies Department of Brown University.

April 23, 2009: Ntozake Shange -Ntozake Shange is author of the play *For colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf: a choreopoem*, which won an Obie and was nominated for Tony, Grammy, and Emmy awards. Shange has also published four novels including Pen-Faulkner nominee *Indigo*. Her poetry collections include: *A Daughter's Geography*, *Nappy Edges*, *Ridin the Moon in Texas*, and *The Space Love Demands*. Sponsored by the [Givens Foundation for African American Literature](#) and the [Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries](#)

EXHIBIT: Waiting to Be Drawn: Political and Editorial Cartoons Focusing on Presidential Election Years

Where: T. R. Anderson Gallery, [Wilson Library](#)

When: Through Wednesday, December 31, 2008

This exhibit marks this year's Presidential campaign and election through a selection from the thousands of editorial cartoons from the collection of Jerry Fearing, long-time editorial cartoonist for the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press. This group of material is one of the newest additions to the remarkable collections of the [Archives and Special Collections](#) department of the [University of Minnesota Libraries](#). Free and open to public.

EXHIBIT: Houlton's Legacy: The Magic of Dance

Where: T. R. Anderson Gallery, [Wilson Library](#)

When: Thursday, December 11, 2008 – Friday, February 20, 2009

In 1962, Loyce Houlton founded a small dance school near the University of Minnesota that has since become the [Minnesota Dance Theatre](#) (MDT). Known for blending classical with contemporary dance, resulting in passionate and theatrical choreography that demands meticulous technique, MDT engages the community and cultivates young dancers. For four decades, the company has performed the "Nutcracker Fantasy," originally choreographed by Houlton and one of the most sought after holiday events in Minnesota. Free and open to public.

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

Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Report

Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network

December 12, 2008

SMILE -- Mankato -Nancy Steele, Director

The subcommittee working on a new administrative structure that combines SMILE and Traverse des Sioux is presenting drafts of by-laws, job description and timeline for hiring a director to the Governing Board to consider at their December 18 meeting. The draft by-laws and results of the opinion survey with a summary report are posted on the SMILE website. The subcommittee will have its next meeting on December 11 at 2 pm prior to the Advisory Committee meeting at 3 pm. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The American Sign Language story-telling programs continue to be well attended at the new location, South Central Service Cooperative. Fifty came to hear stories in October and 48 attended the program on November 1, 2008. Hearing families and children are welcome also and everyone can enjoy a live storyteller. ASL Interpreters from SOCRATES support this by donating their time. The next program is December 6 at South Central Service Cooperative in North Mankato.

The LSTA project to provide ITV programs from the Nicollet County Historical Society and other historical societies in the region is progressing slowly. The date for the ITV use in classroom training is yet to be decided. Dr. Linehan has begun to design the evaluation and progress instruments to allow the project to be replicated. This aspect of the project is designed to provide programming from resources in Minnesota for Internet 2.

The annual meeting in April is being planned and a Minnesota author procured for a speaker.

Metronet – St Paul -Ann Walker Smalley, Director

Activities and Programs – September-November

MILI meetings continue. We met with the Chaska and Minneapolis groups for their October and November. The October meeting was about Web Search Strategy and Google. In November the topic was Choosing and Using Online Databases. Guest speakers in December are librarians from Carver County Library and Hennepin County Library and Minitex. The speakers will address the special features of ELM databases and other resources/databases available through public libraries and MELSA.

Work is progressing on More Things On a Stick. It will start January 20 and end May 20, 2009. There are 23 Things plus the evaluation Thing over 17 weeks. Metronet plans a high school version of 23 Things. It will be offered in collaboration with the media specialist at Minnehaha Academy. The audience is the 50 members of the Academy's Friends of the Library. Launch is expected in early January.

The multitypes hosted an Internet Café with free wi-fi and coffee at MEMO. It was a very popular meeting spot with lots of activity.

45 public and academic librarians, teachers, and library media specialists attended History Day @ your library at the Minnesota History Center November 12. The program was developed in collaboration with MELSA and Minnesota History Day. It was a continuing education event for teachers and school library media specialists who work with student History Day projects. Public and academic librarians who want to learn more about History Day and what expectations are for students also attended. There were two general sessions and eight breakout sessions. Reaction was very positive; we plan to do this next year, too. One outcome was a collaboration between Carver County Library and local academic libraries to host a "History Day Hullabaloo" for students in Carver County.

Metronet paid for the WebJunction/WebJunction Minnesota professional tables at MEMO & MLA to encourage membership. WJMN continues to grow; at the end of October there were 1480 members. An average of 5 people a week request affiliation with WJMN.

WJMN course use continues at a steady rate. 71 new registrations took place since the launch.

Deanna Sylte has spent time fine-tuning the WJMN site so its organization and usefulness is improved. An invitation has been extended via the front page to all WJMN-affiliated members to be in the Member Spotlight. Response has been positive.

Michael Porter from WebJunction presented at MLA on building online communities.

Metronet has initiated an Early Career Interest Group for library staff in the region and beyond. A planning meeting in September attracted 12 people (at 7:30am). The group expanded to approximately 25 people from around the state at a Metronet-sponsored event on November 19 at MLA. All Minnesota library staff are welcome at future events. The group is soliciting ideas for future programs.

Approximately 60 MLA attendees enjoyed the Party On a Stick: Social Networking in Real Life sponsored by the seven multitype regions to celebrate the completion of Rounds 1 and 2 of 23 Things On a Stick.

Two speakers for the June Information Literacy Conference have committed to the date. David Loertscher is presently a professor at the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. Allison Zmuda started her career as a social studies teacher in Connecticut and is now an author and consultant. The topic is "reinventing the media program for the 21st century learner."

Ann Walker Smalley, Metronet Director, has accepted an invitation to participate in the Statewide Continuing Education Committee as the representative of the multicounty multitype library systems. She represents this group on the State Library Advisory Council, too.

Presentations -MEMO Conference, Joint Presentation with Laurie Conzemius, Sartell School Media Specialist on Implementing 23 Things In Your Building, 11.4.08
Metronet, 23 Things, and WJMN, Ramsey County Library Staff Day, 11.11.08

Northern Lights Library Network, Detroit Lakes -Ruth Solie, Director

I attended the Internet Librarian Conference in Monterey in October and thought it was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. It was an opportunity to meet and network with leading figures on the "bleeding – and leading - edge" of libraries, technology, and social networking. It was a great opportunity to more fully explore Web2.0 and Beyond. I anticipate sharing Conference proceeding with my colleagues in the NLLN region and with other multitype systems.

The North Star Library Consortium is again growing. This week we added an additional 14 new libraries to the Consortium, bringing the total up to 125 participating libraries representing 66 school districts and special libraries in the NLLN and CMLE regions. The total number of copies held by Consortium libraries is over 1.3 million and we have more than 68,000 registered patrons. Training for new the Destiny users was conducted Dec 9-10.

NLLN, in partnership with MINITEX, provided workshops for the teachers in the Pomme de Terre school consortium (5 small rural districts) on using ELM resources and the Research Project Calculator. We also conducted a workshop on EbscoHost and other ELM resources in the Douglas County Public Library (Alexandria) for public and school library personnel. We found working directly with high school teachers by subject area (Social Studies, Science, Language Arts) and customizing the training to those subject areas was successful.

The NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship program is going well this year. Scholarship awards have helped make it possible for library staff to attend ALA Annual Conference, MEMO Fall Conference, an international children's literature conference, MLA Fall Conference, and other educational events.

The NLLN Governing Board has adopted the guidelines for a new program, Professional Engagement Awards. These will be financial awards to professionals in the NLLN region who are engaged in the on-going work of the profession at regional, state, and national levels. More information about these awards can be found on the NLLN webpage.

NLLN collaborates with the Tri-College Libraries in the Fargo/Moorhead area to provide on-site viewings at MSUMoorhead of the teleconferences from the College of DuPage. We also provide the registration and facilitate the live streaming in our region of the teleconferences.

NLLN helped realize the highly successful 23 Things on a Stick panels at MLA and MEMO Conferences, the Internet Café at the MEMO Conference, and the Party on a Stick at the MLA Conference. We're currently working on developing tools for "More Things on a Stick" to launch in January.

Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange [SAMMIE] -Robin Chaney, Director
SAMMIE's main focus is still on the Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Teen Coop. We will begin the support of Teen Services in the region with Continuing Education events about teens. In January Erin Walsh, National Institute on MEDIA and the Family and in April Kim Benton, Dryersville Public Library, IA.

SAMMIE is also working cooperatively with Pioneerland and Plum Creek to develop the capacity for online and/or ITV meetings and events in our 18 county region. The SAMMIE Member Council will be looking at the possibility of facilitating region wide adult programming for member libraries.

North Country Library Cooperative (NCLC) -Linda Wadman, Director

The NCLC Governing Board has adopted the trial schedule of meeting quarterly tested for the past year. The Board felt that it allowed more time for discussion and exchange of ideas than the previous practice of meeting following Arrowhead Library System meetings where they always felt pressed for time. It also saves time and money.

Scholarships to MEMO and MLA conferences were awarded to seven library/media staff for attendance at those events during this fiscal year.

Consideration of purchasing access to a database based on member needs is being considered for use of additional funds from the state. Members will be surveyed regarding what they might want/need and we will proceed from there with getting pricing of possibilities. However, recent economic news of possible unallotment may have an effect on this. Funds are somewhat limited as it is.

Members have again been offered the opportunity to purchase ALA graphics materials at a discount. Orders must be received by December 10.

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

Convened panels for both the MEMO and MLA fall conferences around the 23 Things on a Stick program. Both panel presentations were heavily attended. The focus of the panels was to show practical application ideas for using the Web 2.0 tools in library settings, and to discuss how participating in the program had changed people professionally. MLA sent the following recap of the evaluations.... *"Your panel was fabulous, the evaluations were very enthusiastic and rankings were 40% "Excellent" and 40% "Very Good" with the remainder rating it "Good". No one rated it "Fair" or "poor". One evaluation suggested a follow-up session next year, so I hope you'll consider that. I personally thought it was a great mix of people on the panel, with very different (but all positive) experiences with the program"*

The multitypes hosted a 23 Things Internet Café at the MEMO Conference, and a 23 Things Party on a Stick at the MLA Conference in the evening. Dessert on a stick, and blog show-and-tell, provided entertainment.

CMLE's Annual Meeting was offered at the new St. Cloud Public Library mid-October, and was attended by 66 people. Programming included library tours, staff from MN Digital Library doing some digital show-and-tell, and dinner was followed by guest author, Annette Atkins. Evaluations from this event help shape the spring event, which generally happens in April.

Work continues with the North Star Library Consortium, with a new group migrating into the Consortium the first week in December. CMLE school media specialists are encouraged to consider this as one possibility for their library management software while we have dollars towards licensing fees. These funds are from an E2T2 grant secured by Northern Lights Library Network, Region 1 and CMLE. Grant dollars subsidize licensing and training; ongoing costs for being part of the Consortium are the responsibility of each school. Planning is underway for a January 26th event at Arrowwood Resort, in Alexandria, MN. Gaming, gadgets, and tips and tricks to make participants power users of Destiny software, are on the agenda.

Following a model used in the Metro region for MN History Day, CMLE is participating in pulling together History Day events at the Miller Center Library at SCSU. SCSU is the Central MN regional coordinator of this initiative, and regionally, we are offering programming that pulls together academic, K-12, special, and public libraries. The local schools can easily borrow university materials by working with CMLE for checkout or additional interlibrary loan of materials.

CMLE assisted GRRL in offering the LSTA grant workshop in St. Cloud in November for staff at State Library Services and School Technology.

SELCO/SELS – Rochester -Michael Scott

Smart Investing Broadcast Aired -After months of preparation, the first of the joint SELCO – KSMQ television broadcasts aired on Wednesday, August 13 with the introductory topic: Why Should I Invest? Am I too young or busy to think about saving?

Smart Money Connections is a live, call-in show that will run for 13 Wednesday evenings at 6:30 – 7:00 pm from August 13 – November 5, 2008. Following each broadcast, audience discussion will continue via a live webcast.

The program website offers a wide selection of resources and will host copies of the programs and the webcasts. <http://smartinvesting.selco.info/>

SELCO is one of 13 national applicants to receive a FINRA Smart Investing grant through the American Library Association.

Delivery Service Expanded! -SELCO added extra delivery stops at 16 public libraries starting September 3. Each public library that didn't already receive five days of delivery a week was given the choice of adding one or two additional days of delivery or staying at their current number of delivery days. Three libraries opted to remain at three day per week service but may increase the number of stops in the future.

KSMQ – AmeriCorps – SELCO Book Character Program -Through a grant from South East Minnesota Foundation, KSMQ and AmeriCorps brought Clifford-the Big Red Dog as a walk-about character to local libraries for a special children's time with parents. The public libraries in Austin, Cannon Falls, Dodge Center, LeRoy, Preston, Spring Grove, Stewartville, and Wabasha will receive a lively program on social-emotional development of children and the impact on emergent learning skills for early literacy.

Children's books will be shared with the families and provided to the library for check-out as parents log reading time with their children over the following weeks.

Special Consultants Program Launched - A "buzz marketing" workshop on October 28 kicked off SELCO's new Special Consultant program. An outcome from the FY2008 strategic planning retreat, SELCO will contract with subject specialists in four areas: PR & Marketing, Early Literacy, and YA Programming, as well as creating inviting spaces for these audiences. Workshop participants learned inexpensive techniques for sharing library news and were able to discuss possible local publicity projects with consultants Mark Reidell and Steve Nelson.

Plans are underway to initiate advice on programs and services to teens in January.

A workshop or a series of workshops will introduce each topic and a group of pre-screened subject specialists, as well as include an initial opportunity for library directors, staff members, and trustees to brainstorm about a local dream.

For more information: <http://www.selco.info/programs-services/special-consultants>

FY 2009 LSTA Project for the Chatfield Brass Band and Music Lending Library -Working with SirsiDynix, SELCO's ILS vendor, approximately 34,000 records were migrated from the Library's outmoded database to MARC format. Project catalogers are reviewing these records for accuracy and modifying them to fill in data. The staff celebrated the completion of the first 4,000 improved records on October 22 and has currently added over 8,000 records.

Technology Update -Upgrades to the ILS, the public catalog, and our reporting suite are main focuses this fall. While primarily "bug-fixers," there are several enhancements of interest to the Online Libraries, the main one being pre-overdue notices for patrons receiving notices via email.

The SELCO/SELS Board approved the purchase and installation of AquaBrowser as a replacement for the SELCO web-based catalog. This new piece provides a range of functions not available in the current catalog software including faceted browsing, superior relevancy ranking of search results, and automatic correction of search term misspellings. AquaBrowser will be offered to the Online Libraries as a Value Added Service and enables a library to accept credit card payments for Horizon fines and fees. Payment may be taken online through the catalog or in person at the library, with AquaBrowser fully integrated in real time with the ILS. Contract discussions are underway with AquaBrowser with implementation slated to begin in January 2009. The new catalog is scheduled to go live by the end of June 2009.

Hot Reads for Cold Nights -The Hot Reads for Cold Nights theme was unveiled on September 24. Orders were placed from around the SELCO/SELS region, the state of Minnesota, and a few from out-of-state.

The annual Hot Reads for Cold Nights Kick-off was held on Tuesday, December 2. This year's kick-off featured the SELCO Technology Petting Zoo. SELCO staff members demonstrated how to use new technology and attendees received programming ideas for the new technology.

Special News -The Minnesota Library Association honored SELCO/SELS Library Director Ann Hutton's 25 years of MLA membership with a token of appreciation at the annual awards banquet.

Ground was broken on October 9, 2008 for the new Lonsdale Public Library. The Library will be leased space in the new Villages of Lonsdale retirement and assisted community development being built in Lonsdale.

Members from SELCO and Northfield Public Library have been assisting Lonsdale with the design of the library space. The development is scheduled to open in Fall 2009.

Submitted by Ruth Solie, Director, Northern Lights Library Network

Regional System Libraries Report

Peg Werner, Director, Viking Library System
December 12, 2008

East Central Regional Library -Barbara Misselt, Director

The first *Digital Immigrants* (Digital TV) program is scheduled for next week. The *Teens 2 B Seen @ the Library* programs will be kicked off with a staff training seminar by Patrick Jones & company. All the equipment is in and tech staff is having way too much fun installing all the neat tools. We're implementing the devices that came through the LSTA training grant into our grants and they will enhance the projects.

Foreclosure Roundtable – I have been an active participant in a 5-county initiative to get information to persons in financial crisis. A telephone seminar was held last week and 85 people called in. Flyers to announce the seminar had been posted in the front doors of the branches.

Great River Regional Library -Kirsty Smith, Director

The ribbon cutting ceremony and the burial of the time capsule for the new library took place on the morning of September 12, 2008. Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony. The Grand Opening celebration took place on September 20, 2008. Throughout the day, approximately 10,000 people passed through the doors and took a look inside. The day was designed to have something for everyone including a children's parade, author talks, special family friendly performers such as a local magician, and the art chair auction which raised approximately \$20,000 for the Capital Campaign.

On the Thursday of MEA weekend, the St. Cloud Public Library checked out almost 4,000 items and had approximately 140 people register for new cards. In the old building a very busy day was 2,000 circs.

The September stats were also very impressive too. In comparing September of 2008 to 2007, this year the library was open only 16 days, last year it was open 24 days.

Kitchigami Regional Library -Marian Ridge, Director

Strategic Planning Process -A parallel stream to the JPA process is the development of our new strategic plan. The final draft went before the board at the November meeting. Consistent with the value established by the regional board – that branch libraries have the highest possible level of independence – the new strategic plan will only detail the functions of regional headquarters and indicate the areas in which the branch libraries will hopefully develop their own goals and objectives.

Employee Development Day

Our employee development day in October was a particular success thanks to Peg Werner, who wowed staff with her presentation on electronic resources for genealogists.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library -Kathy Fredette, Director

Automation Services enabled an enhancement to the catalog, which allows customers to update their address, phone, and e-mail information. They can access this feature by going into the My Account feature of the catalog. We think that customers have been looking for this feature for some time now, which is evidenced by the fact that 50 customers updated their information within the first 12 hours the feature was enabled!

Starting on August 18th, Automation staff also implemented a new feature, which sends email courtesy notices to customers who have materials checked out that are about to become due. Items that have a 7-day loan period will get a notice 2 days before the item is due. Items that have a 3-week or more loan period will get a notice 3

days before the item is due. It's a customer's responsibility to return their materials on time but they seem to appreciate a heads up that they should either renew the items or plan a trip to the library to return the items.

MELSA -Chris Olson, Director

MELSA, Metronet, and History Day are joining forces to present a conference-style workshop to help teachers and students effectively use library resources. Participants will learn about the steps of a History Day project and how it differs from the ordinary research project. Eight break-out sessions on finding and using library resources, locating online primary sources, collaborating with your local libraries, using the Research Project Calculator, making the most of a library visit, and more will provide tools and tips on making History Day a success for students, teachers, and librarians.

The MELSA promotional team has created a Winter Reading for Adults project for the months of January and February 2009. We are still working on securing some corporate sponsors for the promotion of the program.

Pioneerland Library System -John Houlahan, Director

Glencoe -Glencoe library is looking at moving from its current 6,000 square foot space to nearly 12,000 square foot space on the second floor of city project renovating a school for a multipurpose building. The library will share space with city offices, senior citizen center and event center.

Fairfax -PLS administration is visiting with city and school officials about offering public library service in the Fairfax Middle School. The school first wanted a joint school/public library but we are not investigating the city lease space in the school for a full public library branch (think Metro State and the St. Paul Branch)

SELCO -Ann Hutton, Director

A "buzz marketing" workshop on October 28 kicked off SELCO's new Special Consultant program. An outcome from the FY2008 strategic planning retreat, SELCO will contract with subject specialists in four areas: PR & Marketing, Early Literacy, and YA Programming, as well as creating inviting spaces for these audiences.

After months of preparation, the first of the joint SELCO – KSMQ television broadcasts aired on Wednesday, August 13 with the introductory topic: Why Should I Invest? Am I too young or busy to think about saving?

Traverse Des Sioux Library System -Patty Biesterfeld, Director

The TdS search for an Executive Director will continue in the new year. Interviewing the top candidate in the 4th search in two years did not lead to an offer of employment. At this time, the job description is being rewritten to include the administration of TdS and SMILE and the responsibility of the development of a new administrative framework that combines both functions and responsibilities of TdS and SMILE. September 18 was a really great day for TdS! NCIP was ready for production and finally working! And the TdS Board approved healthy salary increases for all staff!

Viking Library System -Peg Werner, Director

The member libraries within Viking have had a busy summer and fall in regard to system activities. They have completed work on the policies and procedures for the TV on DVD collaborative collection development and are beginning to purchase their portions of the collections. The directors and their staffs have tested eleven different electronic databases during September and October of this year and are ready to make their recommendations for purchase. And finally, VLS staff and local library staff are working together to find an acceptable process using the new enhancements to the VDX ILL software.

Submitted by Peg Werner, Regional System Libraries Representative

University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus Libraries Report

Bill Sozansky, Director, University of Minnesota, Duluth

December 12, 2008

University of Minnesota, Duluth Report -*Bill Sozansky, Library Director*

Like everyone in the state, UMD Library is facing budgetary problems. We have three open positions that we don't know if we will be able to fill or not. We fully anticipate that we will have to make significant budgetary cutbacks during the next biennium.

During the month of November, UMD Library conducted the LibQual survey. We had over 1,500 students and faculty respond to the survey. We are just beginning to analyze the data and hope that it will instruct us how to best improve our services and collections.

Following the lead of the U of M Twin Cities Libraries, the UMD Library sponsored voter registration site near its main entrance. The purpose of this initiative was to encourage patrons to register to vote in the political elections held on November 4, 2008. Blank voter registration forms were provided along with general directions on how to fill them out.

Local citizens and students deposited their completed forms in a secure box and representatives from UMD's MPIRG (Minnesota Public Interest Research Group) actively monitored the station, keeping the registration forms in good supply and delivering completed ones to the St. Louis County Auditor's office.

On January 7, 2009, we will dedicate the Don & June Pearce Group Study Room at the UMD Library and have a reception.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Library Report -*Owen Williams, Library Director*

The UMC Library recently received a grant from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Office of Equity and Diversity. The library used the funds to add to the Children's Book Collection with an emphasis on diversity. Titles will be selected by library staff, UMC Children's Center staff, UMC Early Childhood Education, students, and parents.

UMC Library staff have been doing library research training for local high school students. Topics such as locating information for term papers, critical thinking skills, plagiarism, and citing information are discussed.

University of Minnesota, Morris Report -*LeAnn Dean, Library Director*

No report.

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

State Government Libraries Report

Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library

December 12, 2008

Capitol Area Library Consortium (CALCO) Events

CALCO sponsored an Oct. 14 tour of the Minnesota Historical Society Library for the College of St. Catherine's SLA Student Group. Reference Librarian Brigid Shields led the tour for about 30 students, librarians and alumnae.



◀ CALCO libraries were represented at the November MLA conference with a professional table. Our display board showed many photos of librarians in action! The table included handouts from various agencies, along with our recently-updated [brochure](#). Remember that you can always find contact information for the state government and special libraries on the [CALCO section](#) of the Minnesota North Star web site.

CALCO librarians participated in a Dec. 1 panel discussion on state government librarianship at the College of St. Catherine. About 15 students from the Master of Library and Information Science program attended. Panelists were Paul Dahl, manager of the Minnesota Department of Health Library; Barb Golden, state law librarian for the Minnesota State Law Library; Sheila Hatchell, director of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Library; and Elizabeth Lincoln, deputy director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library.

Twenty-five CALCO library staff enjoyed a holiday lunch at Mai Village on December 3.

Attorney General Library – Anita Anderson, Law Librarian

A.G. Library staff recently compared public records databases from Thomson/West and Lexis/Nexis (Accurint). Our current subscription to ChoicePoint's AutoTrackXP database expires Jan. 1. Thomson/West recently purchased ChoicePoint, but we could contract with any of the three vendors.

We have been busy filling a higher-than-usual number of requests for copies of A.G. Opinions. Many of the requests center on interpretation of election law! A.G. Opinions are cited in the "notes of decisions" section of Minnesota Statutes Annotated. Formal opinions from 1993 forward are available on the [A.G. web site](#), and opinions from 1977 forward are published in the Minnesota Legal Register. The A.G. Library will email PDF copies of earlier opinions. Send requests to library.ag@state.mn.us.

The library added a VHS-to-DVD converter to its AV duplication equipment. This DVD burner connects to the library's VHS player/recorder and records DVDs for playing on PCs, laptops, and DVD players. Cases often include videotapes as evidence, which must be duplicated and provided to opposing counsel.

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

The DEED Library is working to support the department's growing interest in the green economy. Librarians have created a research guide highlighting its new journals – *Renewable Energy World Magazine*, *Sustainable Industries* and *Sun & Wind Energy* – and new books that include:

- *Beyond Fossil Fools* by Joseph Shuster
- *Career Opportunities in the Energy Industry* by Allan Taylor
- *The Clean Tech Revolution* by Ron Pernick
- *Green Investing* by Jack Uldrich
- *Green Manufacturing* by the Association for Manufacturing Excellence
- *The Green-Collar Economy* by Van Jones
- *Hot, Flat and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman

The library also offers access to the following new databases:

- *Global Road Warrior*, a 175-country resource for international business travelers.
- *Minnesota Firms in Foreign Countries*, a subset of the database *American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries*
- *Minnesota Grantmakers Online*, a database of Minnesota grantmakers, grants, and grant recipients

In December, the library offered the Get Search Savvy workshop, "Tips for Better Web Searching," for department staff.

Legislative Reference Library – Robbie LaFleur, Director

At the Legislative Library we've been preparing for the election, and then for meeting the new legislators. We are now preparing for the intense session to come.

This year, rather than creating packets of print materials for new legislators, the Legislative Reference Library created individualized web pages. Each page includes a short video about the library – our first attempt at film-making! We just wanted a short, friendly face to the library to add to the page, and the video accomplishes that. We will likely make a revised and improved version to put up on our public library site. In the meantime, here we are: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaqQkgMRLpU>

We continue to scan older state documents and add them to the collection. A timely recent addition was the older editions of the annual Fiscal Review, done by the Senate. It was online from 1997; we added the volumes back to 1975. You can see a list of older documents we've scanned at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mndocs/edocspre2003.asp>

The Legislative Library celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009! There will be a public reception on January 21, 2009, from 3-5 p.m.

The Library played a lead role in the design and implementation of the Legislature's new portal page, at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>.

Perpich Center for Arts Education (PCAE) Library – Jeanne Iverson, Director

Jeanne Iverson and PCAE colleague Barbara Cox presented a 45-minute program, "A Different Approach to Promoting Critical Thinking with (in) Literacy" at two recent conferences. The program was successfully presented at MEMO on Oct. 4 and MLA on Nov. 20. Participants viewed and discussed the 4-minute video, "I'm Not the Indian You had in Mind," about the image of Native Americans in the media (Perpich is one of the few libraries with the film).

Submitted by Karla Gedell, State Government Libraries Representative

County Libraries Report

Pat Conley, Director, Washington County Library
December 12, 2008

What's Up in Twin Cities Public Libraries: Winter 2008

Public Libraries in the Twin Cities are continuing to find new and exciting ways to serve their customers. Working together through MELSA and with the assistance of new state funding, the libraries are considering proposals to purchase a Homework Help Program and are working to implement discovery tools and Aquabrowser to improve access to the libraries' collections and services. Book clubs still meet. Queries continue to pour in. Story times still see rooms of preschoolers. Public access computers are full. Business is growing as the economy slows to a creeping halt and the state budget deficit grows.....

Anoka County Library System -*Marlene Moulton Janssen, Director*

Plans to open [Anoka County Library](#)'s new building on the eastern side of the county will be delayed until 2011 due to the financial strictures of levy limits. The new public safety campus, already under construction, is slated to be opened in 2010. The County could not afford to open two larger facilities in the same year while levy limits are in place.

Long time reference guru, Jim Hendricks, has announced his retirement effective February 1st. His extensive knowledge and public service expertise will leave a large hole in ACL.

Carver County Library System -*Melissa Brechon, Director*

MRAC Grant Awarded -The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council awarded a "Creative Intersections" grant to support a project that will integrate the arts into the Eastern Carver County's "Hooked on Books" event. "Hooked on Books" is an annual event jointly planned by [Independent School District 112](#) Community Education and the [Carver County Library](#) since 2006. "Hooked on Books" celebrates the joy of reading by bringing families together with their schools and libraries through activities, art, and learning.

Teen -Carver County is currently working on a teen volunteer program that would provide year-round opportunities for teens to earn service hours while providing program preparations and also program presentations of specially pre-packaged kits to young children.

"Teen Tech Week" is being eagerly anticipated with an individualized game that teens can complete on their own. Also scheduled for this week is the eagerly anticipated premiere of the "Message in a Tube" YouTube videos being created courtesy of a Community Powers grant.

Children's Events -December will see The Raptor program during the Christmas holiday break at three Carver libraries and a [Winter Wonderland Crafts](#) on December 27 at Chanhassen Library.

"Tails for Reading" is going strong at the Chaska Library and will be added to the array of programming at the Waconia Library in January and the Watertown and Norwood Young America Libraries in late February or early March. In accordance with the new Carver County Library long range plan and objectives to provide literacy programming, the "Tails for Reading" program will promote retention and extension of reading skills of school age children by providing therapy dogs to which children can read.

"Hooked on Books" will be a highlight of February in Chanhassen and Chaska as the libraries join School District 112 in providing activities that promote reading.

Family, Friends and Neighbors -With the support of a grant from the Target Corporation Carver County Library staff developed a strategy of library service outreach to the group of informal caregivers described as "Family, Friends, and Neighbors". Sites have been identified for distribution of brochures outlining library programs and services for children as well as basic information on early literacy from Every Child Ready to Read. The Library outreach strategy includes potential partnership activities with the local school district's CAPABEL (Community Advocating Partnerships to Achieve the Best Early Learning) group and Carver County's First Step program (point of contact for families who have concerns about their child's development).

National Family Caregiver Month (November) -All library branches hosted displays supporting [National Family Caregiver Month](#) in November. The display of library materials focusing on library materials useful to caregivers in a broad range of topics from Alzheimer's to how to share the role of caregiver with other family members and friends. Also working in collaboration with the Metropolitan Caregiver Service Collaborative, informational packets were made available in the libraries. Pat Samples presented programs on "Comfort and Care for the Caregiver" in the Waconia, Chaska, and Chanhassen libraries as part of a Healthy Living Series for Seniors sponsored by the CAP agency and Carver County Public Health.

Dakota County Library System -Ken Behringer, Director

Minnesota Mosaic® -[Dakota County Library](#) (DCL) was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Target Corporation for the 2008-2009 Minnesota Mosaic® series. This is encouraging because it's the most Target has ever given us for a single season of Mosaic and also because there are a lot of people applying for grants in these tough economic times.

Seventeen performers or authors will appear this season, including author **Kao Kalia Yang** discussing her book "*The Late Homecome: a Hmong Family Memoir*," the CAAM Chinese Dance Theater, the Minnesota Percussion Trio, and mystery writer William Kent Krueger.

Grandparents Day -DCL celebrated Grandparents Day this year with a variety of activities for all ages, encouraging kids and teens to "Bring your favorite "Grandfriend" to the Library. Grand Tales and Hooray for Grandparents were among the storytimes at Galaxie, Heritage, Pleasant Hill, Burnhaven, Farmington, Wescott, and Inver Glen. Pleasant Hill and Wentworth offered Wii gaming for grandparents, kids and teens.

Wescott Library Renovation -The Wescott Library opened in its interim location on September 2, 2008, in the newly finished mezzanine space at the Eagan Civic Arena. The library will be there while the public service space at the Wescott Library in Eagan is being remodeled during the months of September through December.

Even though the temporary space is less than 10% of the size of the Wescott Library, we are able to offer basic library services such as books for all ages, AV materials, public Internet access, pickup of requests, reference service, museum passes, and even story times. One library retiree commented, "it's like a wide bookmobile."

The public has certainly found their way to the interim location. During the first two weeks of operation, the interim location had a gate count of 11,341 visits and 18,120 items checked out. A temporary book drop has been set up on the sidewalk in front of the arena. With just a fifty gallon Rubbermaid wheeled trash container inside, it fills up fast and must be emptied often.

A unique feature of the space is windows that overlook the west arena where hockey games and ice skating take place daily. We can also detect the rumble and vibration of the Zamboni when it's running. One young visitor enthusiastically remarked, "It's a hockey rink and a library—two for one!" We are very fortunate that the City of Eagan has so generously provided such a pleasant and conveniently located space for our temporary home.

Dakota County Library at the Commons on Marice -DCL's efforts to connect with our 55+ audiences found us at the Commons on Marice senior residence in Eagan. Wescott Library and Community Connections staffers collaborated with the Commons on Marice to offer intergenerational programming opportunities for the residents and a local childcare facility.

On October 7, David Coward, Wescott's own singing and guitar-playing children's librarian, presented a storytime entertaining his audience with his fuzzy companion, Mr. Moose. David engaged his audience with stories and song, while Mr. Moose provided comical relief antics.

The 55+ audience sang familiar tunes along with David and he closed with a picture book entitled "What A Wonderful World" that brought to life the song first recorded by Louis Armstrong. DCL will provide another afternoon of stories at the Commons on Marice in December.

Dakota County Robert Trail Library and License Service Center on Schedule -DCL is set to open its ninth branch in early February of 2009. The branch is located in Rosemount.

Somali Family Storytime -Marian Hassan, author, early childhood educator, and storyteller, entertained families at the Burnhaven and Galaxie libraries recently. Her bilingual program in Somali and English included songs, chants, and the picture book *Dhegheer: a scary Somali folktale*. The highlight of the storytime was seeing the children and their parents join in with the singing and responding to the stories.

Hassan's book, *Dhegheer: a scary Somali Folktale*, is part of the [Minnesota Humanities Center](#) bilingual and heritage language programs. The story can also be heard on the CD *Sheekoy, Sheekoy Xariira: four Somali folktales read in Somali and English*. The book and the CD are available for checkout at DCL.

Minnesota Democracy at Work -Dakota County Library patrons were treated to a coincidental brush with headlines on Wednesday, November 19, when Mark Ritchie, Minnesota's Secretary of State, currently occupied with the national Senate race recount, appeared at the Wentworth Library for "Minnesota Democracy at Work," a Q&A on democracy and civic engagement in Minnesota.

Also appearing was Minnesota Representative Dennis Ozment R(37B) of Rosemount, who has chosen to retire after close to 25 years in the state Legislature, where he made a great impact in the area of financially sound environmental stewardship.

The event was moderated by Dakota County Library Director Ken Behringer, who sees the library as a natural space to bring the public and our government officials together. Both presenters lauded the democratic process and spoke of their patriotism and the excellence of Minnesota's democratic policies; and both called for more multi-partisan collaboration in governing.

Heritage Library in Lakeville Joins City-Wide "One Book" Effort -Joining a host of other cities already nestled in the community-wide book club circle, Lakeville has kicked off its first "One Book, One Lakeville" event, a program that invites the city's 52,000-plus residents to read the same book.

This year's book is "Population: 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time" by Wisconsin author Michael Perry. The book is a memoir about Perry's experience as a volunteer firefighter in the small town of New Auburn, Wisconsin.

In addition to challenging the community to read the book, organizers are planning five or six events to be held early next year, including a community potluck at the firehouse and a memoir-writing class.

The event culminates with a visit by the author and his band at the Lakeville Area Arts Center on March 13. Lakeville is one of many cities around the state and nation that have embraced the concept of a city-wide reading event. Eden Prairie, Rochester, and Duluth are a few with similar programs.

Hennepin County Library System -Amy Ryan, Director

Foreclosure Information Workshops -What happens during foreclosure? What are a homeowner's options and rights? What options are there? Get your questions answered by local nonprofit foreclosure counselors. These and other questions will be answered at free workshops presented by Hennepin County Taxpayer Services in partnership with [Hennepin County Library](#) and the [Home Ownership Center](#). Free, confidential advice provided. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. [Brooklyn Park Library](#)

Learn Computer Basics -Improve your job prospects by learning computer skills at your library. Free classes include Computer Basics in Spanish and Somali, instruction just for seniors, plus classes for a general audience.

Library Board Openings -The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners seeks applicants to fill two vacancies on the [Hennepin County Library Board](#). Apply by Dec. 31, 2008. Citizens may apply through an open appointments process.

Plymouth Library and Maple Grove Library Groundbreakings -Senator Klobuchar, County Commissioners, Mayor, and other dignitaries celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Plymouth Library on October 13 at 15700 36th Ave. N. The new library will be 30,000 square feet -- double the size of the old library. There will be 90+ computers; an expanded collection of more than 85,000 books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs; an interactive early literacy area; a Teen Zone for homework help, technology, and hanging out; a comfortable "living room" reading area for seniors and other adults; more space for book clubs; a drive-up book drop; a "green" roof; and more! The new library is slated to open in 2010.

The groundbreaking for the new Maple Grove Library was on Nov. 19, at 8001 Main St. It will be nearly triple the current space to 40,000 square feet and include a parking ramp and lot with over 350 spaces in partnership with the City of Maple Grove. There will be 110+ computers and building-wide wireless access; an expanded collection, interactive features for early childhood literacy, a Teen Zone for after-school learning, homework help and technology activities; marketplace for featured books, CDs, and DVDs; drive-up book drop, summer entrance with reading porch; geothermal heating and cooling systems, and more! Maple Grove Library will close a few months before the new library opens in 2010.

Public Invited to Nov. 20 Community Meeting on Nokomis Library Renovation Project -Hennepin County is beginning the initial stage of the Nokomis Library renovation project. A meeting to update the community about the project was held Thursday, Nov. 20 at the Nokomis Library. The project architect, KKE Architects, Inc., has begun working with staff from Hennepin County Library and Hennepin County Property Services to assess the Nokomis Library building and site. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2009, and the library is scheduled to reopen in 2010.

M.T. Anderson, National Book Award-winning Author for Children and Teens will Speak at Hennepin County Library on Dec. 10 and 11 -M.T. Anderson, award-winning author of "Feed," "The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing," and other books for children and teens, will chat with teens in an online discussion 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 via Hennepin County Library's TeenLinks web page, www.teenlinks.org

Teens can meet Anderson at free programs at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Southdale Library and at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11 at Minneapolis Central Library. To sign up in advance for the Minneapolis Central Library program, contact Teen Central at 612-630-6124 or e-mail clmulligan@hclib.org.

All ages can meet Anderson at a free "Talk of the Stacks" program at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at Minneapolis Central Library. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Seating is first come, first served. The program is hosted by Teen Central's Teen Advisory Group.

Ramsey County Library System -Susan Nemitz, Director

New Roseville Library Addition -The [Ramsey County Library](#) system continues to seek approvals for the design and construction of an addition to the Library in Roseville. The plan includes a 30,000 square foot upward addition. The County Commissioners still need to decide if they will seek LEED certification and if they will fund a temporary service center. The Library expects to break ground in spring of 2009 with completion in summer 2010. Architect: MS&R

Strategic Plan & Security -The Library Board completed a new strategic plan, approved a library security camera policy and funded a project to put security cameras in all libraries.

Business is Brisk! -Circulation continues to grow up 5% this year and 59% over the last ten years.

Scott County Library System -Vanessa Birdsey, Director

Czech Collection -The Mary J. Tikalsky Reading Room addition to the New Prague Branch Library has been completed. The room houses the Czech language collection of the [Scott County Library](#) System. The stained glass window depicts the Czech history in New Prague and refers specifically to Mary J. Tikalsky, one of the founders of the City. The dedication will be held on December 22 at 2 p.m. at the Library. The addition was funded by a donation from the Tikalsky family and a library construction matching grant from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Fiber and Beyond -Scott County has implemented a County-wide fiber optic network that includes the public libraries. Staff and customers have experienced faster network and Internet speeds. A printing service for our wireless customers is now available in our branch libraries. The wireless printing service operates through VendPrint.

Other News -The Friends of the Library organizations in Savage, Shakopee, and Belle Plaine purchased bilingual (Spanish/English) children's workstations for their branch libraries.

The Shakopee Branch Library offers a Spanish/English Storytime (Cuentos para la familia en Espanol e Ingles) each week. The Belle Plaine Branch Library has developed a partnership with ECFE to offer preschool storytimes two days a week.

The Shakopee Branch Library hosted two films on November 13 as part of the Greatest Generation Film Festival sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. *Cloud of Dreams* by Larry Kitzman and *A Navigator's Journey* by Samuel Henderson explored the theme of *Learning to Fly*.

Washington County Library System -Pat Conley, Director

We're 40! -November 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the first two branches of the Washington County Library at Lake Elmo and Marine on St. Croix. While those small little branches are still around, the Library has grown to 9 branches and a staff of over 100 individuals or 66.9 FTE. In the old days, branch staff had to call to the central library to have items looked up in the card catalog. No longer thanks to the joys of library automation....although staff still talks "Dewey" to each other!

One County-One Book: Choosing Civility -Washington County Library Board has selected Dr. P.M. Forni's book entitled Choosing Civility for the first "One County-One Book." The program will be held in March and April 2009 and will culminate in a community meeting and book discussion on April 21 at which Dr. Forni will speak. Dr. Forni is a professor of Italian Literature and Civility at Johns Hopkins University (www.jhu.edu/civility). He has been featured on "Oprah" and has been interviewed many times on National Public Radio. He was a regular guest of the Dolan sisters on their radio show, "The Satellite Sisters."

The Library hopes to spark a community dialog about the place of civility (or lack thereof) in today's world. All current WCL book clubs, including teen book clubs, will be asked to read the book and discuss its twenty-four rules of civility and their application to daily life. The Library is patterning the program after that of the Howard County (MD) Public Library (www.choosecivility.org).

AskMN -In November eight stalwart librarians from WCL participated in training on the AskMN program. WCL intends to join the efforts of the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County Library, and Mankato State in the 24/7 interactive reference service offered by MINITEX using the OCLC QuestionPoint program. It will be an exciting challenge for the librarians and WCL is anxious to move from learning about AskMN to participating in it!

Facilities Planning and E Branches -The Library Board is developing a comprehensive facilities plan that looks to the year 2030 and beyond. The plan will serve as a guide to the Library Board and the County Board as bonding is planned over the next two decades. Also for the first time the County's Comprehensive Plan submitted to the Metropolitan Council will contain information on library facilities in the facilities section.

One exciting element of the future may involve the use of e-branches in underserved or un-served areas of the County. In October, some of the Library Board members had a demonstration of the e-branch concept and discussed the applicability to several Washington County communities. There is strong support for finding new ways to deliver services at the Library and County Boards.

Doggone Reading -This fall WCL joined the growing ranks of public libraries that use canine volunteers. Children can read to the volunteers who listen intently and never criticize or comment! A Human Volunteer assists the canine volunteer. Despite misgivings on the part of County Risk Management, the program is being held at three locations and is a winner!

Library user Lindsey Albrecht (right) posed for this photo on November 1 after reading to Chase during "Dog Gone Reading" time at the Hardwood Creek Branch Library in Forest Lake. "Dog Gone Reading" lets kids read aloud while making a new friend. All dogs used in the program are certified therapy dogs. At left, Chase's owner and program volunteer Kelly Paradis is also pictured.

Hours Changing -Washington County Library has been getting its share of press coverage in east metro newspapers as a result of the County Board's approval of hours changes for all WCL branches effective 1/1/09. While WCL will continue to operate its five largest branches 7 days a week, 52 weeks per year except legal holidays, there will be reductions in hours at four branches and a shift in hours for the larger five branches. For more information see the Library's website at www.co.washington.mn.us

The Stillwater Public Library (SPL), an associate city library to WCL, has announced that it will resume Sunday service hours from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. effective January 1, 2009. Stillwater Public Library will be closed on Sundays in the summer as has been their tradition from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Stillwater City Council will formally adopt the news hours schedule as part of the City's 2009 budget on December 16, 2008.

Submitted by Pat Conley, County Libraries Representative

Technical Colleges Report

Pat Akerman, St. Cloud Technical College

December 12, 2008

Dakota County Technical College – *Michael Kirby, Library Director*

The DCTC Library is complying with MnSCU Procedure 7.3.13 Surplus Personal Property / Building Disposal by offering discarded materials first within our own institution, then to other MnSCU institutions, and finally donating the remaining materials.

We post lists of weeded books and periodical issues on our blog and e-mail links to these posts to all DCTC employees. Approximately two weeks later, we post a list of the remaining serials to the Serials Exchange e-mail list and a list of the remaining monographs to the MnPALS-Discuss e-mail list. After two more weeks, we donate the remaining books to Better World Books.

We've been amazed at the response. We've found takers for a third of our periodical issues and nearly half of our books.

Mesabi Range Community & Technical College --*Laurel Chilcote, Library Director*

I agree with Cynthia's opinion on testing in Libraries. Another issue that might come up is textbooks for our students - Is there a way that we can provide textbooks via ILL - who owns textbooks? How well would lending/borrowing work - would we have trouble getting texts back in a 3-4 week loan period? Might there be an option of e-textbooks? Just curious as to what ideas others might have on this topic... LC

Northland Community & Technical College --*Thief River Falls Campus, Cynthia Jorstad, Library Director*

I don't have anything to report from NCTC - Thief River Falls campus ... except that I'm bracing for a worst case scenario as far as our budget goes. I know I'm not alone!

I have concerns about the Gov's 25% online by 2015 initiative in regards to how that will affect libraries that are required to do proctoring. I think we should all start being vocal about this now, so the admins at MNPALS and MINITEX can help make a case for us. I don't know anyone who got their MLS so they could babysit tests. If there must be testing in the library, there needs to be additional staffing dedicated to that purpose, but I really believe it needs to be moved out of the libraries. SO ... the initiative is admirable but do we need to be thinking about voicing a collective opinion?

I am grateful that we were able to move testing out of the library on this campus, but I still advocate for getting it out of all libraries.

Hope everyone has a nice break and is able to relax, be surrounded by people you enjoy, and make time for a good book (or two!).

Pine Technical College -- Ron McGriff, Library Director

Here's some news from the LRTC at Pine Technical College.

Our 3M collection security system (3502 DM) has completed its first 6 months of service here. We have installed the strips in 75% of the collection and plan to finish during the Holiday Break. I appreciate very much the advice of various MnSCU librarians prior to purchase and also the assistance of Minitex's Tim Peters in the actual purchase.

An email today from PALS informed us that the transition to EZ Proxy service is now underway. Our college's IT staff will supply some information to PALS staff to get things moving. Have you included or are you considering including other campus databases for inclusion? In addition, to the ELM databases and Britannica Online, we are still discussing if a couple of automotive databases could/should be included. I am still sorting out licensing agreements so not sure yet.

Pine Technical College (PTC) is knee-deep in preparation for the NCA team site visit in late February as it seeks re-accreditation. It will be interesting to see how the college's level of support for library development is addressed and evaluated. For our college's request for mission change last year to MnSCU, the library's ability, among other issues, to support an expanded AA program was questioned by the MnSCU site visit team. MnSCU did not grant approval for a change of mission. NCA site visits to PTC in 1994 and 1999, resulted in very soft evaluations on the status of the "media center". A NCA Focused Visit in 2002 noted, as a suggestion, that "as the College continues to expand its educational offerings and programs, the College may wish to give some thought to enhancing the library collection or developing a virtual library on line to support its new programs as well as the general education program". By the end of this semester, I will complete and issue my *Five Year Report College Library Services and Operations*. As in the past for my similar, annual evaluations, this report will be communicated to college faculty and administration. Although some notable improvements and progress have been made in library services and operations, funding support whether for traditional or electronic (virtual) collections has not increased and library staffing remains at 1.1 FTE.

I'm definitely on board for educating all entities about the need to insure that library staff anywhere is focusing on library services and are not being used as a way to avoid properly funded test proctoring supervision. Our make-up test policy has resulted now in a very manageable level of such tests, monitored by our Academic Skills Coordinator (ASC) during limited testing hours. Dean of Students is working on a draft policy for online tests (based on my first draft) since those numbers are steadily increasing. ASC has always handled those.

We enjoyed the visit of Virginia Dudley and Sara Ring from Minitex to our library and campus here on Monday. Following a building and library tour, we settled in for an exchange of information which will be very beneficial in improving elements of our services.

Submitted by Pat Akerman, Technical Colleges Representative