

MINITEX

Reference NOTES

A Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

August 2007

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"Back to School" in Detroit Lakes

Jennifer Hootman

For many, the month of August is one of shifting our thoughts from vacation plans, memories, and summer programs to numerous, upcoming fall activities. We are beginning to turn our attention to prepping for the work ahead. This past month Ruth Solie, Director of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN), invited MINITEX Reference staff to speak at their "Back to School Special!" This workshop targeted the area school media center staff. Additional speakers included Bruce Pomerantz of the State Library Services addressing a school media survey coming in 2008, Chris McArthur of Waubun-Ogema Schools discussing new aspects of Destiny 7.5, and Ruth Solie, NLLN Director, sharing information about NLLN resources for continuing education.

For my portion of the workshop, I was asked to deliver a presentation based on a webinar previously developed and entitled, *Web Page Creators: Free of Cost & Code*. The page creator tools that I focused on were EBSCO's "Page Composer," ProQuest's "Create a Web Page," Google Page Creator, and PBWiki. These four tools served as examples of the many, various types of page creators that are freely available. Look to our archived webinar page at: <http://minitex.umn.edu/events/training/archived.asp> for a pre-recorded webinar version of this presentation coming soon! You can also find this presentation in a pdf-formatted PowerPoint and its accompanying handout at: <http://wiki.minitex.umn.edu/hootm001/OnSite>.

The second half of my presentation time included information on establishing ELM access and an update on what's new with the ELM databases (e.g., Gale's new PowerSearch interface), training, teleconferences, WebJunction Minnesota, and a new tool from the University of Minnesota's Health Sciences Library called My Health Minnesota → Go Local (<http://hsl.lib.umn.edu/golocal/>).

The workshop attendees were an engaged and attentive group. It's such a privilege and delight to be invited to speak at Multitype and Regional library system workshops. We welcome invitations and are prepared to customize our presentations to your workshop theme. If you would like to set up a workshop and include MINITEX Reference staff, please let us know via e-mail: mtxref@umn.edu or phone: 1-800-462-5348.



**Slam the Boards on
9/10 with other
Librarians!
To learn how,
check out:
[http://answerboards.
wetpaint.com/page/
Slam+the+Boards%21](http://answerboards.wetpaint.com/page/Slam+the+Boards%21)**

Time with Teachers

Kristen Mastel

It is that time of year again when public, academic and K-12 libraries start gearing up for students returning to class. In the K-12 institutions, this usually involves numerous new teacher orientations along with in-service optional training opportunities. Recently, MINTIEX Reference Services was asked to present on the ELM databases and other tools to teachers at conferences and in-service training sessions.



This summer I presented an ELM overview to secondary teachers attending the BestPrep Technology Integration Workshop. After presenting, numerous

teachers stayed to chat. We looked on their school district or media center's library website and found the links to the ELM resources, but they did not know where the links were located prior to the training session, what they were for, or what subjects were covered. A handful of enthusiastic teachers asked afterwards if MINITEX could present a session at their school, and our answer was YES! We can co-present with the media specialist or be the off-site expert and lead the training session solo. MINITEX looks forward to working with those teachers we met at BestPrep for possible future presentations and other K-12 schools to co-present or bring a breath of fresh air to an in-service session with an ELM Overview or hands-on session.

Last week Sharon Phelps, the media specialist at Chaska High School, invited MINITEX to lead an ELM overview for a group of teachers during their Summer Bytes workshop. During this hour session we covered databases appropriate for high school students to complete projects, resources aimed to assist educators professionally, along with other related tools such as the Research Project Calculator and Minnesota Reflections. Even though I lead the presentation, Sharon tag teamed very effectively to explain how she has used each resource directly with the students or other teachers and to bring the conversation down to a local and implemented level.

Thank you both to BestPrep and Chaska High School for inviting us to be a part of your education outreach and professional development.

Open Library Opens to the Public

Carla Steinberg Pfahl

With an ambitious goal of digitizing every book in existence, you may think the creator of Open Library, www.openlibrary.org, is extending far beyond the grasp of reality. However, Aaron Swartz and his crew are approaching this endeavor in a very systematic way. The 21-year-old already has a long resume that includes helping create RSS, publishing a couple of computer-science papers, and developing Infogami, infogami.com, which allows anybody to create their own website for free. He is also a book lover and is always on the hunt for obscure and out-of-print books. This was the impetus for starting the Open Library project.

In an interview with Inside Higher Ed's Scott McLemee, <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2007/08/08/mclmeme>, Swartz talks about his love for libraries and desire for a better search engine. He thinks that academic libraries' online catalogs and WorldCat have wimpy search engines and weak data structures which provide only basic bibliographic information. "I wanted to build a site where one could more easily find those hidden great books, by combining all the data we have on them in one place and letting the people who love them go back and annotate and highlight them." Of course, there is the question of how will all these books will be cataloged; Swartz and colleagues see the site as a "clearinghouse for all cataloging data." To this end they are looking to strike deals with all the publishers, national libraries, and research libraries to import their catalogs. One of the benefits they see to contributing an academic library's catalog to the Open Library project is that not only will a library be making its information available to more people but the library will then also be able to get back all the other libraries' information (similar to RLG, www.rlg.org).

The Internet Archive, www.archive.org, will be doing much of the digitizing of books for this project with scanning centers located at various libraries across the country. They are currently in the process of digitizing out-of-copyright items. With those and all the catalogs they can get their hands on they hope to integrate all the data into one coherent site with the use of algorithms that they are currently working on. For the workings of the interface, they envision a site that allows the user to enter corrections to typos of scanned text through the use of a wiki. They are also thinking of ways users can obtain copies of out-of-copyright books by purchasing a scanned copy for \$50 to \$100. The idea is to email a PDF of the book to the user and then put the full-text online with a nameplate thanking them for funding it.

They are not just looking at books but also journal articles sorted by title, author, subject and topic with abstracts and reference and links to where a user may obtain the full text copy. Beyond this they are looking to do the same for music and movies.

You can take a sneak peek at the creation and future of this project by going to their demo site, demo.openlibrary.org/. You can even take a guided tour, demo.openlibrary.org/tour, to get a better sense of what the site is and will be capable of doing.

My Health Minnesota → Go Local

<http://medlineplus.gov/minnesota>



This great new service, available to all Minnesotans, is a link to health services within the state. My Health Minnesota → Go Local is one of the “Cool Tools” that MINITEX and volunteers will be promoting at the State Fair. It is a joint project of the National Library of Medicine and the Health Sciences Libraries of the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic Libraries, and MINI-

TEX. Minnesota is one of 18 states that offers complete Go Local coverage. The other 32 states in the U.S. offer basic Go Local coverage which includes hospitals only.

My Health Minnesota → Go Local is a free, online directory of health care services and providers throughout Minnesota, including clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, health screening programs, and more. All 87 counties in Minnesota are covered. Go Local allows you to search for health-related services by location, by provider, facilities, and services, and by disease or health issue.

Go Local is complemented by MedlinePlus, a website from the National Library of Medicine that provides authoritative and trusted health information. Between the two, you can link to reliable health information about diseases and conditions and find local health services in your community. Go Local is growing on a daily basis and is created and maintained by library staff. The services and providers included in the site have been carefully selected using specific guidelines, including:

- They provide health services to Minnesota residents;
- Those providing services have proper credentials;
- Current contact information is provided.

My Health Minnesota → Go Local offers the following disclaimer, “...provides information about health services in Minnesota. It is an information and referral service only, and does not diagnose medical conditions, offer medical advice, or endorse specific products or services. Specific medical advice cannot be provided by the staff of My Health Minnesota → Go Local. For diagnosis and answers to your personal health-related questions, consult a qualified healthcare professional or physician.”

2007-08 Teleconference Season

MINITEX renewed our network-wide license for all MN, ND, and SD libraries and/or library staff to downlink or desktop stream both College of DuPage series, *Soaring to Excellence* and *Library Challenges and Opportunities*, again this year! Hosting a downlink site and a post-teleconference discussion is a wonderful way for library staff in an area to get together. If interested, Please contact Kristen Mastel, at: meve0539@umn.edu

More information on how to register and detailed descriptions of each teleconference will be available on the MINITEX teleconference website shortly.

Details coming soon, at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/teleconferences/>

October 26, 2007
Soaring to Excellence: Finding the Trends that Matter - Get Your Environmental Scan On

February 8, 2008
Soaring to Excellence: People Watching with a Purpose - Meeting Needs Before they Need It

March 14, 2008
Challenges and Opportunities: Library Trends

April 11, 2008
Soaring to Excellence: Trends, Fads or Folly - Spotting the Library Trends that Really Matter

May 9, 2008 (tentative date)
Challenges and Opportunities: The Future Library

Collaborative Virtual Reference Symposium

Carla Steinberg Pfahl

At the end of July, I attended the Collaborative Virtual Reference Symposium in Denver, CO, <http://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/reference/2007VRSymposium/index.html>. This conference was sponsored by The State Library of Colorado, and representatives from across the country and globe were in attendance from Canada to New Zealand, England, Australia and Sweden. It was a small group of 75 librarians currently running and working in collaborative virtual reference programs from similar size/type libraries to statewide services.

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One of the things I took away was when George Washington University began training, they found a natural fit pairing librarians together, those with a lot of experience and skills with reference to those with a lot of experience and skills with technology. They found that the 2 groups worked well together because the (typically) younger generation that had the technology skills were not comfortable with their own reference skills while the (typically) older generation felt strongest with the reference skills but needed support with technology.

Some libraries previewed commercials that will be airing in their region soon. One that got the attention and laughter of many librarians was a commercial for the Swedish national consortium for virtual reference services presented by Magnus Illvered and Ulf Nilsson from Jönköping University Library in Sweden. It showed a man sitting at a table with a computer connected to the national vr services' website and radio. He was on the phone with the radio station being asked questions to win a prize. Each time he was asked a question he would turn to his computer and ask the question to the librarian. He'd get the answer and relay it back to the radio station. Each time the suspense built and it took less time to answer each question. It ends with him winning the grand prize just under the buzzer and the view fades out to the librarian on the computer asking if there is any-

thing else he would like to know. I often have wondered if people would dare use a virtual reference for something like that. It was a very genuine and creative commercial.

If you are interested in reading my full descriptive notes from the conference, you can view them at our MINITEX DigRef blog: <http://blogs.minitex.umn.edu/digref/>.

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Reference Intake Form	https://www.minitex.umn.edu/reference/refdb/index.asp

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning, and State Library Services & School Technology, the Minnesota state library agency, supports MINITEX Reference Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

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