Minitex

REFERENCE NOTES

October 2011

The MLA Annual Conference was held in Duluth October 12th – 14th. The theme for the conference was "Libraries: Superior Value for Life" and the exhibits, breakout sessions, keynote speakers, meetings, and informal networking certainly underscored the many ways in which Minnesota libraries provide that value. You'll find our reflections on a small portion of the great sessions below.

To Boldly Go...

Anne Hatinen, CPERS

I am a reader of fantasy who has dabbled my toes in the waters of science fiction, but I wanted to learn more, so at the 2011 MLA Annual Conference, I attended Melissa Gray's session entitled "To Boldly Go: Fantastical Journeys through Science Fiction Readers' Advisory." I loved her explanation of why she read Science Fiction – for the sense of wonder; because it makes you feel childlike; that it stretches the mind and heart; and while sometimes bizarre, it manages to stay believable.

What exactly is Science Fiction? It's about us and our relationships to the world around us, especially with science and technology. Some call it the new mythology. It's a literature full of ideas and thought experiments. Gray noted that "What If?" is an important question, and Science Fiction can examine ethics, offering cautionary tales. Plus it tells a good story!

Gray took us on a journey through some of the different tropes found within Science Fiction including aliens/other life forms, robots/androids/artificial life forms/AI, time travel and manipulation, steam punk, parallel universes, post apocalyptic, and utopia/dystopia. For more on these tropes, Gray offered a link to her blog: http://librarianinspace.blogspot.com/. She also gave us the link to her Science Fiction Readers Advisory account on Delicious: http://www.delicious.com/SciFiRA where she posts links and notes about various series, authors, and books for those of us looking for specific examples to dive into. ■

Libraries and the Great Outdoors

Jennifer Hootman

I'm keen on most any topic having to do with Nature. Therefore, I couldn't miss the MLA presentation "Growing Readers: Bringing Libraries, Nature, and Families Together." Speakers Nicole Brinkman and Jennifer Dietrich, both Children's Librarians at Ramsey County Library, Roseville, delivered a presentation that spoke to both the adult and child in me. They shared the importance of blending Nature topics with literacy, benefits of having a library

outdoor space, development of their outdoor space and programs using it, collaborations with the community, tips on selecting books on Nature, Nature Kits, and more. I thought that if I had exposure to this kind of programming at my public library when I was a child, it would have made a positive impact on my early literacy and interest in reading. Find their handout on the MLA website: http://mnlibraryassociation.org/uploads/conf11/handouts/E3.pdf ■

E-Books: What's All the Excitement About?

Rita Baladad, CPERS

I participated on an e-book panel discussion with four other librarians: Melissa Gray, St Paul Public Library; Brian Kraft, Washington County Library; Michelle McGraw, Hennepin County Library; and Amy Springer, College of St Benedict/St John's University. Our intent was to generate a dialog between us and the audience about bigger-picture issues surrounding e-books.

To guide our conversation, we drafted a set of questions:

1. Now that eBooks have become very popular, what do you see as the future of print?

2. Where do you see eBooks in five, ten years?

3. Unlike printed books, eBooks can be read on a variety of devices -- devices that need to be purchased separately. What relationship do you see in the success of the eBook format and the proliferation of these devices? Since not every format plays of all devices, does this affect what you purchase?

4. Your libraries have eBooks. What impact have they had on your libraries?

5. Like most digital content, eBooks are provided to libraries through a vendor. And unlike print books, libraries do not own the item, only the right to view them. Do you see any issues with these relationships going forward?

6. What do you see as the library's role in the use of eBooks? Are you currently meeting the patron's expectations in that role?

All of the panelists agreed that there was still a need for print. I cited a recent PEW report said that the percent of adults in US who own an e-book reader doubled to 12% from 6% in November 2010. Twelve percent seems impressive but it also means that over 80% of adults don't have a reader. Is this creating another digital divide?

Forecasting the future of e-books was a fun topic for the panel. Some of the things I mentioned were disaggregation of content: the ability to buy or loan book chapters; e-books being rebranded as portals (the user purchases/leases a book; publisher/distributor sends content/updates; e-book contains links to videos, multimedia or other content outside of the book); and the serialization of e-books. Amy Springer recounted when a patron requested an Amazon "e-riginal"—a book published by Amazon, available only as an e-book. If her library decided to buy the e-book, the e-book must be loaded onto a device. This brought up bigger-picture questions: how should libraries acquire and provide access to books available only as e-books? Should the library be involved with e-readers? We also talked about publisher and distributor roles merging: witness the rise of Amazon which now has seven imprints and publishes e-riginals. OverDrive markets itself as a digital content distributor; what happens when they start creating content? An audience member asked about Playaways being used as a model for e-books: what if we could buy an e-reader pre-loaded with content?

All of the panelists mentioned the same issue when we discussed the impact of e-books on libraries: staff time. More staff time is being spent not only on educating the user, but keeping up with the devices on which to read these e-books. Additionally, we are spending more of our time figuring out how to acquire, access, and store e-books. I noted that library staff must also now spend more time carefully studying pricing models and negotiating more useful and advantageous language in licenses.

Working with vendors and the library's role in negotiating for better terms generated lots of comments from the audience. Hosting, archiving, perpetual rights v perpetual access: why aren't libraries doing more in this area? The short answer we gave was time: increasing amounts of staff time are being used to keep up with filling the demand for e-books and answering how-to questions about e-readers. Additionally, the e-book market is currently in a state of explosive growth and constant flux; how do we keep up? Elbowed into action by the OverDrive/Harper Collins kerfluffle and most recently, the OverDrive/Amazon privacy debate, increasingly, libraries are becoming aware that they must take an advocacy role in the e-book ecosystem. Furthermore, libraries will have to spend more time thinking about continued access to this e-content. The panel noted a handful of efforts currently underway: LibraryRenewal.org; the ALA E-books Taskforce; the eBook User's Bill of Rights; Kansas State Library; and Douglas County Public Library. ■

RDA: DOA or A-OK?

Matt Lee

I attended this session in the hope of getting a peek into the controversy around RDA. The session was conceived as a debate, with the four presenters (Stephen Hearn of the U of MN Libraries, Chris Getz of Great River Regional Library, Sarah Quimby of the MN Historical Society, and Bobby Bothmann of MSU-Mankato) assigned either a pro-RDA or con-RDA stance to present during an allotted 10-minute time slot.

Many of the specifics of the conversation went over my non-cataloging head, but here's what I took away: The fundamentals underlying RDA are solid, and some of the specifics that may be troublesome now will evolve over time. The language of FRBR creates interoperable semantic statements that express qualities over headings and share our desired message more clearly. But, many of the RDA improvements will be meaningless without an institutional ILS upgrade. The implementation of RDA may expand the service gap between well-funded libraries and poorly-funded ones through costs associated with: the RDA Toolkit, ILS upgrades, and AACR2 conversions. In addition, no framework exists to house the new code. MARC as a structure is not enough because it is not deconstructable. Adding additional RDA-related info to MARC records simply makes them more bloated. But that being said, on the whole, RDA is a flexible scheme that allows libraries to interact with, contribute to, and hook content into a body of information even larger than ours. ■

One Book, One Conference: The Stormchasers

Carla Pfahl

One of the sessions I attended at MLA was "One Book, One Conference: *The Stormchasers*" with author Jenna Blum who also wrote *Those Who Save Us*. The description of the session intrigued me, and I wanted to know why someone would be interested in chasing a storm in the hopes of the storm producing a tornado. Blum explained that when she was 4-years old and visiting her grandmother in Caledonia, Minnesota, she watched a tornado pass by her grandmother's house while hiding under a couch in the living room. Her interest in getting to learn more about the world of storm chasers stemmed from that first tornado encounter.

Delving into the world of stormchasers and storms was the research portion of her book. Blum joined up with the professional stormchase group *Tempest Tours* and traveled through many states to get a better idea of what it takes to chase storms. Along the way she learned a lot about storms, their formations, how clouds move and identifiers of what a storm may produce. The story revolves around the relationship of twin brother and sister with the brother suffering from bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder itself is often compared to a storm, so pairing it with stormchasing seemed a natural fit for the author.

Secluding herself and her dog in a hotel room in Caledonia for 2 ½ months was the writing portion of her book. Blum chose the hotel in hopes of having privacy and no distractions. She covered the wall of her hotel room with a story board of index cards to help her stay on track with finishing the book. At times, she would distract herself with watching the sky for encroaching storms and get in her car to chase them.

Blum discussed the reason she became a writer as well. She said the art of storytelling has always captivated her. Stories are what bind people together, and if you have a good story, it can seem to write itself. That's the way it felt with her first book, *Those Who Save Us*. As for stormchasing, Blum is still an active stormchaser and will be leading a tour next summer. Check out her website for more information about that: http://jennablum.com/index.htm. ■

Four Ereaders, Four Librarians, One Good Reminder

Matt Lee

Ebooks are a great library conundrum. Vocal library patrons want them, but some librarians may admit to a dark lurking fear that they will replace traditional library service. They encroach on the library's "Book" branding, but offer the potential to bring new readers into the library fold. Libraries share them, but don't own them. They are book content, but sometimes require a level of technical support beyond our capabilities (and wildest fears).

So there are all of these issues that keep us thinking and writing and attending conference presentations (see the "E-Books: What's All the Excitement About?" article in this newsletter) in an effort to figure out what other library folks are doing with ebooks. But all of the details and the library repercussions can almost make one forget about the actual experience of reading an ebook. So a fun read from Digital Shift called "Four Librarians, Four Ereaders, One Month" was a welcome find: http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2011/10/11/four-librarians-four-ereaders-one-month/.

It details the experiences of four Oregon State University librarians using four different ereaders over a month's time. Those experiences were these librarians' first with dedicated ereaders. So they relate the things that they love about ereading and in the process allude to the ways in which this new crop of tools may help to reinsert reading for pleasure into everyday life. Pleasure with ebooks. We could all use a dose of that every now and again. ■

Citation Tracking and Bibliometrics

Jennifer Hootman

I don't know about you, but whenever I've encountered questions requiring citation tracking and hunting down bibliometric measures for any given publication, I feel that my tool box could use a few more tools and some freshening up. The September issue of C&RL News included an article in their *Internet Resources* section that's sure to do just that.

In "Citation Searching and Bibliometric Measures: Resources for Ranking and Tracking," Robin Kear (University of Pittsburgh) and Danielle Colbert-Lewis (North Carolina Central University) provide a number of helpful tips, explanations, and tools that will likely come in handy the next time a professor asks "What's my h-index score" or when a student asks "What are the best journals in ___ field?" or a variety of other situations.

Here's a snapshot or list of the tools that Kear and Colbert-Lewis lay out in their article. However, I encourage you to check out the article in full to absorb all the good insights and explanations they discuss as well as how these tools may be useful (http://crln.acrl.org/content/72/8/470.full.pdf+html).

Citation Tools & Measures

- Citation Map – Thomson Reuters, Web of Knowledge
Depicts backwards and forwards citation of an article using a map format
http://wokinfo.com/
- Citation Reports – Thomson Reuters, Web of Knowledge
Gives a graphical presentation and snapshot of a set of articles
http://wokinfo.com/
- Citation Tracker – Scopus
Detailed information on finding, checking, and tracking citations
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
- h-graph – Scopus
Visually depicts the impact of an author's research or set of articles
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
- h-index (measuring the broad impact of a researcher's work) – Web of Knowledge and Scopus
Both include the h-index in searches for an author
In Web of Knowledge the h-index is found under Citation Reports
In Scopus the h-index is found by conducting a search and selecting an author's hyperlinked name under the Research section
http://wokinfo.com/
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus

Subscription Databases for Citation Searching

- Academic Search Premier – EBSCOhost (hey, that's an ELM database!)
Find Similar Results, Cited References, and Citation Matcher
http://ebscohost.com/academic/academic-search-premier
- Google Scholar
Cited By (times a document has been cited), Google Scholar Citations (New, currently in testing)

http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/citations.html
• JSTOR – ITHAKA
Search options: Citation Locator and Advanced Search
http://about.jstor.org/
• PsycINFO – American Psychological Association
Search options: Find Citation
http://www.apa.org/psycinfo
• Scopus – Elsevier
Citation Tracker (found in View Citation Overview – includes h-index), Related Documents
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
• Web of Knowledge – Thomson Reuters
Cited Reference Search, Times Cited tool, and h-index
http://wokinfo.com/

Journal Tools & Measures

• Article Influence Score
Calculates the relative importance of a journal on a per-article basis
http://www.eigenfactor.org/
Journal Citation Reports subscription: http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/journal_citation_reports/
• Eigenfactor Score
A ratio of the number of citations to total number of articles
http://www.eigenfactor.org/
Journal Citation Reports subscription: http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/journal_citation_reports/
• Impact Factor
The average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) year using Thomson Reuter's citation data
Journal Citation Reports subscription: http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/journal_citation_reports/
• Journal Analyzer Tool
Provides a view of journal performance using Elsevier citation data
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
• SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) Score
http://www.scimagojr.com/index.php
http://www.journalmetrics.com/
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
• SNIP (Source Normalized Impact per Paper)
http://www.journalindicators.com/
http://www.journalmetrics.com/
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus

Subscription Databases for Journal Measures

• InCites
Citation-based research evaluation tool of people, programs, and peers
http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/incites/
• Journal Citation Reports (can be accessed separately or through ISI Web of Knowledge)
Impact Factor metrics, Eigenfactor and Article Influence scores, five-year Impact Factor, and the immediacy in dex http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/journal_citation_reports
• Scopus
h-index score, h-graph, citation tracker, journal analyzer, and SNIP and SJR journal scores
http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus
• Web of Knowledge
Can include Web of Science and Journal Citation Reports depending on institution's subscriptions
Includes h-index score, citation reports, citation mapping, citing articles, and sums and averages of citations
http://wokinfo.com/

AskMN Welcomes Two New Libraries

Carla Pfahl

Carver County Library and Normandale Community College have both joined AskMN this fall bringing the number of participating libraries to 18, including Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction. Carver County Library is in the process of updating their website and looks to unveil AskMN in conjunction with a new website. Normandale Community College will be going live with the service at the start of spring term in January as their campus begins new construction projects. They see AskMN as a way of assisting staff and faculty during this process.

Want to learn more about participation or benefits of participation? Check out AskMN (http://askmn.org/libraries/participate.aspx) or contact Carla Pfahl, pfahl001@umn.edu, for more information.

ELM Spotlight

ELM for K-12 Academic Standards Coverage Expanded

Matt Lee

We rolled out the first iteration of a new tool called ELM for K-12 Academic Standards this summer. Just recently we expanded upon that first iteration thanks to our close partnerships with the ELM database vendors and the excellent work of the Minitex IT department, especially programmer Michael Berkowski. Take a look at http://elm4you.org/standards.

The tool now covers the entire K-12 spectrum of curriculum benchmarks related to Language Arts, Science, and History & Social Studies. It contains links deep into content from seven different ELM databases and three different vendors: Britannica, Gale/Cengage, and EBSCO.

The seven databases included are:

Encyclopedia Britannica Elementary Edition
Searchasaurus
Encyclopedia Britannica Middle School Edition
Science Reference Center
Student Research Center
Student Resources in Context
Academic Search Premier

To use the tool, a teacher would navigate through the familiar structure of standards (which we aligned directly with the structure dictated by the MN Department of Education) to find the benchmark a lesson plan or assignment will impart to students. At that level, the teacher will be shown live links to magazine, journal, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles, plus multimedia content relevant to that benchmark, from within the databases most relevant

to that area of curriculum and grade level. That content can be permalinked to share with students or colleagues. And it can be easily embedded within blog posts, class web pages, or course management systems.

We hope this makes it very practical and easy for teachers to use library database content. At the recent Education Minnesota conference, we presented on ELM for K-12 Academic Standards with Karen Qualey (nee Bauer), a Media Director at Olson Middle School in Bloomington. She shared three practical classroom teacher uses for the tool that she has observed:

- Discover research topics that align projects to state standards;
- Assist beginning teachers with lesson planning and creating learning targets;
- Design creative lesson plans with recent research & publications.

Please share this tool with your teachers, let us know what you think of it, and pass along any feedback you hear: mtxref@umn.edu. ■

Cooperative Purchasing and Electronic Resources (CPERS)

Welcome to the CPERS Column! October's Reference Notes marks the beginning of a semi-regular column written by CPERS staff about e-resources and library products. We'll also be writing about issues related to e-resources and library products, including interesting tidbits we've gleaned from conferences, meetings, site visits, and general goings-on of our department, libraries in our tri-state area, and the library world in general.

CPERS 101

Cooperative Purchasing and Electronic Resources Services, aka CPERS, offers discounted pricing on individual subscriptions and purchases of a wide variety of electronic resources, electronic services, and library products. Our unit has three staff: Tim Peters, Anne Hatinen, and Rita Baladad. Tim manages orders for all library products and a handful of K-12 resources. Anne and Rita manage all other e-resource/ e-service orders. We work with over 75 vendors to negotiate cooperative purchasing for all libraries in the three-state Minitex region. If you have questions about any library products or e-resources, please email us: cpers@minitex.umn.edu

E-resources Trials

CPERS sets up trials of e-resources twice a year in fall (October) and spring (April). We try to keep the number of trial e-resources low as these trials serve to highlight e-resources, not just list what we offer. See our Fall 2011 Trials here: http://minitex.umn.edu/Electronic/Fall2011.aspx We also coordinate trials for vendors and e-resources that CPERS does not currently offer but think libraries might find useful or interesting; these trials are in November and May. We welcome suggestions and comments throughout the year for e-resources and products that you'd like Minitex to offer. Please email us: cpers@minitex.umn.edu

Red Tag Security Products

3M has notified its distributors (Minitex included) that they will no longer offer Red Tag Security products. However, Minitex has negotiated with the Red Tag products manufacturer AGI to continue offering the whole Red Tag Security product line. Look for lower prices in the new year! If you have any questions on Red Tag Security products, contact Tim Peters at Minitex, 612-625-9527 or 800-462-5348 .

CPERS at the NDLA Annual Conference
2011 marked the 105th Annual Conference of the North Dakota Library Association as well as Minitex's 40th anniversary, so the Minitex attendees -- Bill DeJohn, Mark Wilhelmi, Mark Ehlert, Dave Paulson, and Anne Hatinen -- celebrated with two tasty cakes in Minot together with the over 160 conference attendees. Minitex also had a booth in the exhibit hall at which we gave away special 40th anniversary editions of our ever-popular Minitex pens. Of the presentations at the conference, the standouts were "Living Banned Books" and "Web App Gong Show." For the former, attendees walked around the hotel lobby and chose various books at which to stop. Each book was an NDLA member who gave a short reading, a summary of the book, and an explanation of why it was banned. The latter featured a Prezi presentation by Eric Stroshane of the North Dakota State Library – available here: http://prezi.com/0j4dkeqkynfb/web-app-gong-show/. Attendees were encouraged to ring a gong (on iPads or smartphones) when they wanted Eric to move on to the next web app. It was fascinating, though occasionally, the gonging cut into something about which I wanted to learn more.

CPERS at the MLA Annual Conference
Anne and Rita had a most superior* time attending the Minnesota Library Association 2011 Annual Conference in Duluth (*note that in addition to the location of the conference on the shore of Lake Superior, the theme of this year's conference was "Superior Value for Life."). Minitex also had a booth in the exhibit hall to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Unlike NDLA, we did not have two tasty cakes to celebrate: we had a six-foot-tall blow-up cake and an ice cream bar. Rita spoke at a panel presentation "E-books: What's All the Excitement About?" Anne and Rita also chatted with colleagues at an e-resources dinner hosted by Sunshine Carter at Pizza Luce. This month's Reference Notes highlights some of the presentations CPERS and other Minitex staff attended. Photos of the MLA (and NDLA) Conference can be found on the Minitex Facebook page. ■

This 'n That from the Web

WireDoo, 2 Legit

Jennifer Hootman

Stanley Kirk Burrell, or perhaps better known as MC Hammer, the 90s rapper, is launching a new business: a search engine called WireDoo. Yes, you read it right, MC Hammer is going into the search engine business with a product attempting to compete with Google and Bing. According to Hammer, he wants to improve Internet searching with WireDoo to allow for "relationship-driven searches." For instance, Hammer explains that if you are searching for a zip code, WireDoo will yield results that would include related information like schools, homes, and hospitals. Or if you search "schools," you'll also get related information on academic performance index scores, teachers' credentials and truancy rates.

I'm left scratching my head a bit and not sure how WireDoo is anticipated to work much differently than current search engines, but it sure will be interesting to see it in action. I'm just hoping that somewhere on WireDoo's search page we'll get to see a reference to parachute pants and the "Hammer Time" dance.

WireDoo is currently in beta and can't touch this until the public launch tentatively set for December 2011.

For the news release and a video of Hammer explaining WireDoo check out the CBS news article: http://tinyurl.com/3djcxhf ■

Library Technology Conference 2012, Call For Proposals

Edited from announcement

The 5th Annual Library Technology Conference will be held March 14-15, 2012 on the campus of Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and the planning committee invites you to submit your session proposal ideas. We're looking for session ideas about technology use in libraries that challenge, entertain, and inspire discussion. We encourage proposals from public, school, or special libraries in addition to academic libraries.

More information about the 5th Annual Library Technology Conference:
http://www.macalester.edu/libtechconference/index.html
Submit a proposal: http://www.macalester.edu/libtechconference/for-presenters.html

Proposal Submission Deadline: November 21, 2011

The Library Technology Conference is a conference that mixes keynotes, traditional lecture-style presentations, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and poster sessions highlighting many of the technologies affecting how users interact with libraries, as well as how libraries are using technology to create new and better ways to manage their resources. The focus is on sessions that are interactive and which provide practical information that will allow participants to apply what they've learned at their own library.

Some possible session topic ideas might include:

Cloud computing in libraries
Working with vendors in a digital age
Digital Preservation
Institutional repositories
Augmented reality
Social networking for outreach and service promotion
Semantic web
QR codes
Virtual research environments
Search engines / Information discovery
Web 3.0
Library apps
Mobile computing
Technology and Information literacy
Electronic books

Please do not let this list of suggestions limit your imagination on session proposal topics. We are interested in hearing about how changes to established technologies are being changed or improved to meet the evolving needs of libraries and also about cutting edge projects that libraries are doing with technology. We want to hear about your successes as well as what you learned with your failures. ■

Leadership Essentials & Time Management from WebJunction Minnesota

Cec Boone, Minitex

Want help with learning about leadership essentials? How about time management and priority setting? These courses and more are available through WebJunction Minnesota (http://mn.webjunction.org/1). And, WJMN provides access to a host of free webinars.

First, the online courses:

Manage your time – don't let it manage you -- "Time Management: Planning and Prioritizing Your Time"

http://mn.webjunction.org/home/-/courses/details/119477557

So many of us have a hard time effectively managing our time in a way that really makes us efficient and productive. Time Management: Planning and Prioritizing Your Time will teach you a few concrete, easy to follow steps to identify, prioritize, sequence and accomplish the things you need to do in the short amount of time you have to do them.

And, "Unlock the Leader within You"

Do you find yourself wishing you knew better how to lead staff whom you supervise? Or would you like to move into a leadership role, but don't feel comfortable with your leadership skills? The Leadership Essentials course series can give you a great start, or help fill in your gaps and give you new ideas to motivate, communicate, and lead!

Leadership Essentials 1: Motivating Employees -
http://mn.webjunction.org/home/-/courses/details/93070785

Leadership Essentials 2: Communicating Vision -
http://mn.webjunction.org/home/-/courses/details/93070787

Leadership Essentials 3: Building Your Influence as a Leader -
http://mn.webjunction.org/home/-/courses/details/93070788

Leadership Essentials 4: Leading with Emotional Intelligence -
http://mn.webjunction.org/home/-/courses/details/93070783

Make sure that you're logged in to WJMN to see the course information and to take advantage of early registration on the (FREE!) webinars. Remember to check out the WJMN Learning Center (http://mn.webjunction.org/catalog) for the full list of WJMN courses.

And, WebJunction webinars
(For descriptions and registration information, see: http://www.webjunction.org/events/webinars)

Open registration to these free webinars
"2011 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study: Results, Trends, and Resources"
Tuesday, Nov. 1 • 1 p.m. Central • 60 min.

"Wow, That's Cool! What is it?"
Thursday, Nov. 10 • 1 p.m. Central • 60 min.

Affiliation with WebJunction Minnesota is free and available to members of the Minnesota library community. Tell your colleagues!

MN Digital Library

Digital Delights: October is Family History Month

Joanne M. Sher, Professional Genealogist & Historical Researcher, Duluth, Minnesota

Explore your family history by looking at some of the images and documents found on Minnesota Reflections. Perhaps you will find an image of a family member or something that helps put history into your family's story.

Diaries are fun to read and can add insight to a family's history. What was life like for a teenager in Minneapolis in the 1880s? The Hennepin County Library contributed the diaries of Ezra Fitch Pabody, written from 1882 to 1890, for inclusion at Minnesota Reflections. See an example from 1882 at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/mpls,674.

Did you have German immigrant ancestors? Did you know that the Federal government required German Alien Enemies (those that were not naturalized U.S. citizens) living in the U.S. to register in 1917? Stillwater Public Library has one of the few remaining collections of those records. An example of a record can be found at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/spl,996. The rules and regulations governing that national registration can be found at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/spl,691 (also from the Stillwater Public Library).

Where did your family members worship? Minnesota Reflections has many images of churches and synagogues. Two examples are Zion Presbyterian Church in Mankato (from the Blue Earth County Historical Society)http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/blue,1470 and Congregation Mikro Kodesh Synagogue, Minneapolis (from the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest) http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/jhs,176.

Bet you didn't know that your ancestors had FANs? The names of those Friends, Associates, and Neighbors can often be found on plat maps and in directories. See a page from the 1914 farmers' directory of Bogus Brook Township in Mille Lacs County from the Milaca Area Historical Society at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/mah,72.

Many of our ancestors were Swedish immigrants. They may have read the Svenska Amerikanska Posten. The American Swedish Institute has provided pages from that newspaper including an advertisement for the 1903 Convention of the American Union of Swedish Singershttp://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/swede,4.

During the Great Depression many young men served in the Civilian Conservation Corps to help their families make ends meet. The Iron Range Research Center has a collection of CCC photographs from Company 717, Camp S-53, near Side Lake. Was your ancestor an enrollee or cook included in a group photograph? Find out at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/irrc,2444.

While a specific photograph of your ancestor's home or business might not be available, you may find a view of the neighborhood to be interesting. Some examples are the Duluth Central Hillside neighborhood from the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/nemhc,3692 and an early street scene in Rochesterhttp://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/olms,568 from the Olmsted County Historical Society.

Our ancestors belonged to many organizations such as the Sons of Norway in Windom http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/cotton,800 (from the Cottonwood County Historical Society) or perhaps benefited from one of the many charitable and benevolent organizations in St. Paul http://reflections.mndigital.org/u?/p16022coll1,130 (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation).

These are just a few examples of the many family history treasures that can be found in Minnesota Reflections. ■

Minnesota Digital Library – Call for Digitization Projects

Marian Rengel, Outreach Coordinator, Minnesota Digital Library

The Minnesota Digital Library is now accepting applications for projects for Phase 8 of the development of Minnesota Reflections, our digitization and database project. We will accept applications through April 30, 2012, or until we have committed all of our digitization funding.

You will find information at the MDL homepage. http://www.mndigital.org/

This is an open call for projects. Later this year, we will be issuing a second call for projects that address specific collection development subjects. Watch for the announcement of that special call.

Please spread word far and wide. ■

Reference Notes

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