

5. Minnesota Digital Library – An Update and Report

For your information, here are updates to this activity.

1. Marian Rengel, Learning Resources & Technology Services at St. Cloud State University, is now the outreach coordinator for the Minnesota Digital Library. She started in this new position Wednesday, August 23rd. She will work closely with the staff at MINITEX, which is now the administrative home of the Minnesota Digital Library. Marian will also work closely with the Steering Committee and Management Group, which advise on policy and operations. Marian will be the main contact person for questions about “Minnesota Reflections” and new projects underway during this fiscal year as we continue toward the development of the Minnesota Digital Library as a statewide resource.

Marian will concentrate outreach efforts with current contributors to “Minnesota Reflections” and identify other libraries, historical societies, municipalities, and organizations that may be interested in completing digitization projects with the MDL. Her additional goals include assessing the status of existing digital projects currently unavailable to the general public. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact Marian at mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu.

The Minnesota Digital Library has several additional objectives in this year’s project grant, including:

- Maintaining and upgrading the MDL’s technical infrastructure, including servers, applications, databases, storage back-up and recovery, and data that support the MDL.
- Creating new products, such as curricular materials for teachers and students in grades 4-12, who use the Minnesota Digital Library to support history and social studies instruction to meet state and national teaching standards.
- Working with current and potential institutional and individual users of Minnesota Digital Library to better understand their needs and to plan the future of the MDL more precisely.

Our signature project, “Minnesota Reflections,” has been growing since introduced in 2005. We now have:

- ❖ 11,208 images and documents in the database, more than doubling its size in the past year.
- ❖ An updated interface, which features educational resources, and spotlights on the Minnesota Maps Online collection and the Minnesota Auto Trails collection, one of our new document collections.

Visit the Minnesota Digital Library and learn more at:

- http://www.mndigital.org/news_events/news_events.htm#educators
- <http://reflections.mndigital.org/>

MINITEX is now the fiscal home of the Minnesota Digital Library and is administering a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, awarded by the Minnesota State Library Services (a division of the Minnesota Department of Education), to continue the work of developing the Minnesota Digital Library

There is an important resource for educators that has been added to the MDL Website under the topic “**Resources for Educators**” :

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition (MDLC) is pleased to release three resources to support educational use of "Minnesota Reflections." All three resources teach about immigrants in Minnesota and use selected historic photographs and documents drawn from the collections in "Minnesota Reflections." Each shows how digital copies of objects can be integrated into the curriculum and into student-centered projects. The three new resources are a presentation in PowerPoint, a presentation using Pachyderm and a text-based Teacher Guide.

[Pachyderm](#) is a new multimedia authoring tool developed through a partnership led by the New Media Consortium and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Minnesota Digital Library is exploring using this technology to develop further presentations and to provide Pachyderm to the educational community for developing original educational packages.

The MDLC is also interested in expanding opportunities for using digital resources in learning and instruction. We invite your [comments](#).

You may download each of these resources for use on school computers without connecting to the Internet. For your convenience, we have included zip files for the PowerPoint and Pachyderm presentations.

Teacher Guide:

- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project--Teacher Guide](#) (MS Word document)

PowerPoint presentation:

- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project](#) (PowerPoint presentation);
- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project](#) (Web-based PowerPoint presentation);
- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project](#) (downloadable zipped PowerPoint file; 5.3 Mb)

Pachyderm presentation:

- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project](#) (online Pachyderm presentation);
- [Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project](#) (Zipped Pachyderm files; 9.9 Mb)

The three resources were authored by Kris Wetterlund and Scott Sayre of [Sandbox Studios](#) under a contract with the MDL. We thank them for their continuing interest in and support for the efforts of the MDL.