

MINITEX

Reference NOTES

A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (HESO) at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

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Information Bits:

If you missed the ELM programs at this year's MEMO, MACHE, or MLA Conferences, you can view and download the PowerPoint presentations and handouts used. Just visit the MINITEX Reference Services ELM database site at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/reference/elm.asp>.

ELM Portal Coming Soon!

Some of you may have heard the news that an ELM Portal will soon be available. So just what is the ELM Portal? The ELM Portal is one site/URL where you, or your patrons, can access any and all of the ELM resources. You will be able to list the ELM databases alphabetically or by subject category and from this site you will be able to access ALL ELM resources with your public library barcode number. To help you sort out the pros and cons of directing patrons to the ELM Portal, we've listed some highlights below:

Considerations in linking directly to the ELM Portal:

1. No need to maintain multiple database links on your web site, you will only link to <http://www.elm4you.org>
2. ELM Portal will include a subject and alphabetical listing of ELM databases, plus links to other Minnesota resources like MnLINK, Minnesota Digital Library, Minnesota Public Libraries, and Minnesota North Star
3. Access is by public library barcode number (no need to maintain multiple ids/passwords)
4. You will not be able to use any institution-specific branding
5. You will not be able to collect an institution-specific usage statistics
6. The URL is easy to remember

Considerations in direct linking to ELM databases from your web site:

1. You can control the look and feel of your web site (how the databases are listed, displayed, described, etc.)
2. You can have your institution's branding on the database interface screens
3. You can track your institution's usage statistics
4. You have to maintain the links (time and technical effort for you or IT staff)
5. Schools will use ids/passwords for remote access and these vary from vendor to vendor which means you'll have several to track
6. You will be able to integrate the ELM databases in with other databases to which your institution subscribes

An announcement will go out as soon as the ELM Portal is up and ready for use! Keep your eyes open for this exciting news!



MINITEX Reference Services on the Road



Fall is a busy time for MINITEX Reference Services as we are out on the road training school and library staff around the state on the ELM (Electronic Library for Minnesota) resources. As of late, we presented two sessions on ELM at the Great River Regional Library System staff day. We presented a very well-attended program on ELM at the MLA Annual Conference, as well as a program on NetLibrary and eBooks. We'll be presenting another ELM program at the 2005 MEMO Conference in Mankato. Earlier this fall we presented at the Catholic Educators Conference that was held in St. Cloud, and we promoted ELM at Minnesota Homeschoolers Alliance and the Minnesota Catholic Home Educators Conference.

Within the next few weeks we'll be visiting Buffalo Schools for an ELM training session for their media specialists and staff. We won't be presenting, but we will be promoting ELM at Education Minnesota on October 20th and 21st. The following week we'll be in Moorhead, Crookston, and Detroit Lakes for ELM training sessions. If you're in the area and interested in attending, contact Liz Lynch at lynchl@larl.org. The first week of November we'll be in Benson and Slayton for back-to-back ELM training sessions. If you live in the Benson or Slayton areas and would like to attend, contact Robin Chaney at info@sammie.org. In mid-November we're headed south to Rochester for ELM training offered to SELCO librarians. For more information on sessions in Rochester contact Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran at msancomb-moran@selco.info.

Shared eBook Collections: Public Library and Spanish Language

About the Collections

MINITEX, in partnership with OCLC NetLibrary, is offering the Shared Public Library and Spanish Language Collections. These new collections contain titles not currently appearing in other MINITEX Shared Collections. A low, one-time investment provides you and your patrons with access to a collection of OCLC NetLibrary eBooks. eBooks are full-text electronic versions of published books that library users can search, borrow, read, and return over the Internet, and can also be used in support of online reference services.

Shared Public Library Collection

The 500 titles in this shared collection were carefully selected by NetLibrary staff collection development librarians to create an up-to-date set of popular public library content. This collection emphasizes content in areas like: Personal Law, Personal Finance and Business, Computers, Personal Health and Medical Reference, and Self Help.

Shared Spanish Language Collection

This collection includes 278 Spanish language titles that were selected by NetLibrary collection development librarians to cover a broad range of subject areas, with emphasis placed on classic literature and reference materials.

If you're interested in participating in these collections contact Christine Kline at (800) 462-5348, 612-624-2925, or kline119@umn.edu.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Microsoft has teamed up with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) to help increase Internet security through a month-long awareness-raising campaign that provides information and sponsored events for consumers, small businesses, educators, and families. This year, the National Cyber Security Awareness Month campaign began October 1, 2005. The NCSA is a non-profit organization with sponsors in education, the United States government, professional organizations, and private corporations. It provides information and access to resources and tools to enable individuals and small businesses to better protect their computers and their personal information from online threats. Events for this year's campaign include conferences and workshops in several cities across the U.S. For more information and a list of events, visit the NCSA Web site at <http://www.staysafeonline.info>.

Six tips for staying safer online:

Beef up your computer's defenses and keep them up to date.

Use a firewall and install antivirus software. Keep Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office programs up to date with security updates. Detect, remove, and block spyware with AntiSpyware. You can download and install it from: <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.mspx>.

Use strong passwords, protect them, and change them regularly.

Strong passwords have at least eight characters. Include letters, numbers, and symbols that are easy for you to remember but tough for others to guess.

Think first. Click later.

Even if you know the sender, consider carefully whether you really want to an open e-mail or instant message attachment. Be wary of clicking links in e-mail, instant messages, or pop-ups.

Be protective of your personal information.

Never provide sensitive personal information in an e-mail, instant message, or pop-up window. Treat your Social Security number with special care. Only share your primary e-mail address with those you know.



Make sure Web sites protect your personal information.

Read the privacy statement before you give out any personal information or download software. Check for signs that the Web site protects sensitive data. Look for https in the Web address and for a padlock or an unbroken key in the lower right corner of the Web page. Double-click the padlock or key to ensure that the "Issued by" name on the security certificate matches the name in the address bar.

Take extra steps to help keep kids safe online.

Pay attention to what kids do and whom they meet online. Consider a rule that no child reveals personal information (including photos) without permission. Warn kids never to meet Internet "friends" in person.

Nothing can guarantee complete safety in cyberspace, but much can be done to minimize your exposure to risk. Microsoft makes available a range of resources to help protect computers and information. Instructions, advice, tools, and videos are available from <http://www.microsoft.com> and <http://security.msn.com/>. Both Web sites provide guidance to help protect children online, combat online fraud, reduce spam, avoid phishing scams, and preserve privacy.

REFERENCE NOTES

MINITEX Library Information Network

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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 & 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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*A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education
Services Office at the University of Minnesota*

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