



A Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota

# MESSENGER

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## RFP Work to Begin for Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM)

By Mary Parker

The licenses for many of the resources included in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) end on June 30, 2009. Mary Parker, MINITEX Associate Director, is leading a task force that will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a mixed suite of electronic resources for ELM.

The MINITEX Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force includes representatives from academic, public, K12, and special libraries in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The timeline for this RFP is October 2008–June 2009.

Parker, Bill DeJohn, and Rita Baladad are also working with the Health Sciences Libraries of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, on the Electronic Health Library (eHL) project to identify core clinical resources that could be licensed statewide. Access would be via the ELM Portal ([www.elm4you.org](http://www.elm4you.org)). Earlier this year, Parker and project manager Erinn Aspinall issued an RFI through the University of Minnesota to elicit preliminary pricing. This project is on hold at the moment as the project team identifies the best strategies for funding a two-year pilot. In the current economic climate, this will likely be difficult, but we’re still working on it!

Contact Mary Parker, [m-park1@umn.edu](mailto:m-park1@umn.edu), 800-462-5348, or 612-624-1024, if you have questions.



Becky Ringwelski

## Members Appointed to MnLINK Gateway RFP Group

By Becky Ringwelski



Members have been named to a group that will write and spearhead the review of responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the MnLINK Gateway over the coming months. An RFP is the required method for

identifying the successor(s) to the OCLC ZPortal and VDX software that currently operate the Gateway. The current contracts will end June 30, 2010.

The Gateway went into use for library staff in 2004 and was opened to patron requesting in Feb. 2005. The original contract was through June 30, 2007. Since then, there has been one yearly extension – to June 30, 2008—and the second extension will end June 30, 2009. The last extension allowed will be the third year extension that would go through June 30, 2010.

Current plans call for the RFP process to be concluded by Spring 2010. The resource sharing environment has undergone significant changes over the past five years. Now, there are open source solutions as well as new offerings from traditional vendors. Throughout the RFP process, we will try to keep the best of what we have in the current Gateway environment – double authentication, Amazon cost and publication date checks, patron limits, etc., as we review our options.

The membership of the MnLINK Gateway RFP Group is shown below along with the timeline for the work of the group. We appreciate the willingness of these staff members to contribute their time and energy to this process.

#### Timeline:

- RFP process 4/1/09 – 11/30/09
- Contract negotiations - 12/1/09 – 2/28/10
- Test system 3/1/10 – 6/30/10
- System goes live 7/1/10

#### RFI Group Members:

##### Library Staff

- Barb Misselt – Executive Director, East Central Regional Library
- Doug Guthrie – Information Technology, Saint Paul Public Library
- Evan Kelley – Librarian, Interlibrary Loan & Public Services, Dakota County Library

- Greg Suave – Librarian, Interlibrary Loan & Public Services, Rochester Public Library
- Carol Johnson – Library Director, College of St. Catherine
- Stephen Elfstrand – Executive Director, PALS

##### Minnesota Office of Higher Education Staff

- Emily Kissane - Library programs and Learning Network of Minnesota

##### MINITEX Staff

- Becky Ringwelski – Associate Director, Chair
- Michael Berkowski – Information Technology
- Nick Banitt – MnLINK Gateway Support

## AskMN – Minnesota's Statewide Cooperative Virtual Reference Service

*By Carla Steinberg Pfahl*



Since it began earlier this year, AskMN.org has received over 1800 questions! AskMN continues to grow with the addition of four more libraries and library systems this fall. The new participants are Washington County Library, St. Paul Public Library, University of St. Thomas Libraries, and Macalester College's DeWitt Wallace Library.



*Carla Steinberg Pfahl*

The four new participants join the libraries already participating in AskMN: Hennepin County Library – Suburban and Minneapolis locations; Rochester Public Library; Minnesota State University, Mankato; St. Cloud State University; Joint Libraries of the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University; College of St. Catherine; University of Minnesota, Duluth; and University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. More libraries will be added as fall continues.

Here is what staff of some of the libraries participating in AskMN have had to say about the service:

- “It is an exciting service to be able to offer our customers.” (Hennepin County Library)
- “Here is an example (referring to a transcript) of what I see as a beneficial aspect of the weekend/extended evening coverage. Our patron successfully served by another librarian.” (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
- “The co-op and contract librarians have done a good job answering our users’ questions... We’ve been impressed with the quality of service provided by our partners around the state and in OCLC’s cooperative.” (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

Feedback from patrons has also been encouraging:

- “[The Librarian] was great and very prompt with her answers and navigating the Internet! I’m so happy about this Chat option and will definitely use it again in the future!”
- “[The Librarian] from Univ of Hawaii was extremely helpful and very friendly. I will definitely use this again. It’s 11:15 pm on a Thursday night, and I feel too stupid to go ask someone face-to-face. I have triplets and can’t go to the library at night, so this was awesome. I don’t know much about libraries and I’m a grad student. That is rather embarrassing. Thanks!”
- “This service is very helpful, especially for non-trad students who do not live on campus. Thank you!”
- “This resource saved my life!! I was super anxious and feel much more confident that I will be able to access the information I need or access the help I need when I need it. This is a great service. Thank you”

Notice that there was a comment about a librarian from the University of Hawaii! This is one of the benefits of participating in a 24/7 national cooperative digital reference service — we are able to provide Minnesota residents with quality research help from experienced librarians, all at the patron’s point-of-need.

Another benefit we are finding is that AskMN is able to reach patrons after most reference desks are unavailable. Currently, 55% of all questions received by AskMN are handled after hours. This is a significant statistic that opens our eyes to the activity of patrons. For the future, we may be able to use this information to better meet the needs and demands of patrons and to improve the overall service provided via AskMN.

For now, it gives us a window into our patrons’ needs that previously was not there.

## In My Opinion Sharing Reference Services through Electronic and Innovative Means

By Bill DeJohn

*The mission of MINITEX is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of participating libraries by expanding their access to local, state, regional, national and international information resources. This is accomplished by promoting partnerships, effective delivery of needed information and by sharing library resources including collections and electronic resources, bibliographic records, and reference services through conventional, electronic and innovative means. MINITEX pursues technological innovations to provide new opportunities for delivery of services.*



Bill DeJohn

MINITEX is funding a project in Minnesota called “AskMN, the Librarian Is In” ([www.askmn.org](http://www.askmn.org)), a statewide cooperative virtual reference service that provides 24/7 coverage for online interactive chat with an experienced librarian. (See the preceding article for Carla Steinberg Pfahl’s update about this service.)

I have long felt this was a service that we should be offering in Minnesota, but it has taken awhile to get it together. We have been discussing digital or virtual reference in Minnesota since 1999.

MINITEX was part of a LSTA grant from the State Library (then, Library Development and Services) in 1999/2000 to develop a model reference and referral network for Minnesota libraries. On June 4, 2002, LDS and MINITEX hosted a full-day meeting on reference services in Minnesota with 40 librarians in attendance. Goals were developed upon which MINITEX and LDS should continue working. However, LDS staff were dismissed at about this time, and other activities took precedence in everyone’s minds. We didn’t get back to virtual reference services for over a year.

In 2003, we were part of a Minnesota Collaborative Digital Reference Project that met a few times and, then, developed a survey on the subject that resulted in over 400 replies from the three-state region. The survey’s result was that some libraries wanted to move ahead, some were not interested in the activity, and some wanted some statewide organization to take the lead.

Things were in limbo for some time while a few libraries went ahead on their own to offer virtual reference service using commercial software packages and/or email reference forms. MINITEX was part of a discussion in late Spring 2004 with panelists from libraries using virtual reference software of one kind or another. We were hoping that it would lead to a statewide project, but a few people said it was not a priority for them, while a few libraries went ahead on their own.

However, we continued to be asked by directors of academic and public libraries when there would be a statewide project because some libraries, which were experimenting with their own sites, wanted to participate in a statewide project, especially with 24x7 coverage. At the same time, various technologies were developed that enabled libraries to use ‘chat’ software including Meebo, etc., instead of commercial software packages.

In Dec. 2007, MINITEX called a meeting of staff of Minnesota libraries offering virtual reference service, including heavy use of ‘chat’ software, and launched the AskMN project on Jan. 1, 2008. Developing the name and logo took a few months, and the website was rolled out in mid-March. At the same time, a few libraries using virtual reference software transferred to MINITEX’s license on Jan. 1 and began to use QuestionPoint.

This has been a long period of development, and I am hopeful that we will be able to sustain it into the future as another method to answer the information needs of Minnesotans. We are now involved in an active project with nine academic and five public libraries, and we are planning to add more libraries during FY09.

In looking at usage statistics, roughly 1842 questions were received between Jan.1 and the end of Oct. 2008 — for an average of 184 questions a month (without any marketing or general publicity). Hennepin County Library started in January, while everyone else started March 24. Total requests received by our public library group from Jan. 1-Oct. 31, 2008, was 775, while the academic library group received 1,067 between March 24 and the end of October.

About 55% of the questions are being answered after the Minnesota libraries no longer staff their reference phones. I know many libraries offer email reference forms for patrons to use, but, in my opinion, that does not provide service ‘at the time and point of need’

(when I believe users want to ask a librarian a question and receive an answer or, at least, know they have talked with someone and an answer will be forthcoming.)

More and more libraries in the region are using 'chat' software to communicate with their patrons and most of the libraries are accepting email reference questions. A few AskMN participating libraries are using chat and im software during their library hours and switching to AskMN afterwards. AskMN provides a choice of receiving email messages, chat, or instant messaging, or a combination of the three.

See Carla's article for comments from both patrons and librarians about the usefulness of this service. In my opinion, this is one more 'tool' that libraries should be using to serve their patrons when they have a 'point of need' question. It doesn't replace those people physically coming into a library to ask a question or seek information, nor does it replace those libraries whose patrons phone a library's reference service for information. It's just another way for patrons to access their library for needed services. It is also a tool that can show how essential and important the local library is to its community by providing 24x7 information service.

We need to remember that our 'libraries' are available 24x7 in that a patron can search the library's catalog, renew, and request a book or other item; access their electronic resources including ELM; search all the library online catalogs in Minnesota; and initiate an interlibrary through the MnLINK Gateway. Why can't they also Ask a Librarian a question on their own schedule instead of a library's schedule?

Now they can, and, if their librarian is not in, others around the state are and, even after hours, there is a librarian somewhere in the U.S. who is willing to help them with their question successfully at their point of need. The current AskMN – The Librarian Is In project offers chat, instant messaging, and an email reference service – patrons can make their own choice.

We think the benefits of this program include:

- 1) extending access to your collections, resources, and other services to your patrons 24x7;
- 2) having experienced librarians a click away;
- 3) serving your patrons in a new way at their "point of time and need," especially when so many more patrons are using instant messaging;
- 4) reaching the distance learner/patron; giving patrons another option to connect with your library after hours coverage;
- 5) centralized training and support;
- 6) time commitment of local staff is minimal;
- 7) help where local libraries cannot support a stand-alone virtual reference service; and
- 8) being part of a national group offering 24x7 reference services.

In conclusion, I believe this is another service that Minnesotans should be able to access, and libraries can make it happen – thereby, strengthening Minnesota and improving the health of local communities. Hopefully, if enough libraries participate, we'll be able to extend it to North and South Dakota just as we have other resource sharing services. However, at this point in time, we are concentrating on getting participation from Minnesota libraries.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.askmn.org/>

If you have questions or wish to participate, please contact me ([w-dejo@umn.edu](mailto:w-dejo@umn.edu), 612-624-2839, 800-462-5348).

## MINITEX Serials Exchange Program Has Been Discontinued

By Kathy Drozd & Bill DeJohn

The MINITEX Serials Exchange program was discontinued effective Oct.1 due to a declining user base.

Over the last year, we have reviewed the program's status, including the number of libraries using the program and its cost of operation. Our conclusion was that, while this program was important during much of its 34 years of existence, it is no longer sustainable. MINITEX can no longer afford to subsidize it, nor can we use state appropriations to support it.

MINITEX staff have operated the program since 1974, and libraries have been supplied with hundreds of thousands of journal issues and recently discarded reference books at far less than the original cost of the item. However, the cost of the service has continued to increase while the use of the service by libraries has shown a steady decline. In FY07, only 17 libraries purchased items.

Serials Exchange staff have contacted each of the continuing Serials Exchanges users to notify them of the timetable for phase out of the program. Staff also noted organizations that accept books weeded by libraries.

Serials Exchange staff will be assigned full-time to the MINITEX Delivery Service where their full-time assistance is greatly needed. We plan continue to maintain a Serials Exchange listserv as a vehicle for library staff to share news about discards and to notify other others who may be interested of what is available, but this listserv will be maintained only if it is actively used.

If you need more information, please feel free to contact Kathy Drozd ([k-droz@umn.edu](mailto:k-droz@umn.edu)), 612-624-9553, 800-462-5348).

## "Minnesota Reflections"

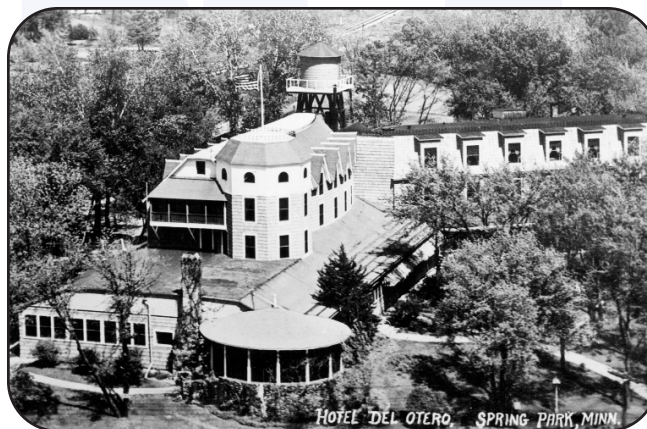
By Marian Rengel



MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY



Visitors on the dock of the Keewaydin on Lake Minnetonka, west of Minneapolis (ca. 1900-1910)



Aerial photo of Hotel Del Otero in Spring Park, near Lake Minnetonka (late 1930s or early 1940s)

Phase 5 of the development of "Minnesota Reflections" is well underway. The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) continues to digitize collections from across Minnesota with more than 100 organizations submitting material for the Minnesota Reflections collection.

"Minnesota Reflections" (<http://reflections.mndigital.org>) now has more than 31,000 copies of photographs, maps, documents, and other primary historical resources from across the state.

Round 1 of this year's application process ended Oct. 3. We have received 17 applications from 16 organizations. We digitized seven of them, and two organizations have completed their metadata and their new projects will be available online soon.

Three organizations – Mower County Historical Society, Westonka Historical Society, and the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society – are new to “Minnesota Reflections.” Each submitted photographs to the project. Mower County digitized aerial photos taken in 1949 of each sector of the county; the project includes an index to the photos. Westonka's collection focuses on postcards of Lake Minnetonka, and includes several maps. Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka has digitized a large collection of photos of the Excelsior Amusement Park.

We will be adding volume three to the Probstfield Farm Living History Foundation's collection of journals from 19th century farmer and business man, Randolph M. Probstfield, who was one of the first settlers in Clay County. Hennepin History Museum contributed a journal written by Ezra Pabody, whose boyhood journals are already part of “Minnesota Reflections.”

Other organizations adding their collections include: Pipestone County Historical Society, Morrison County Historical Society, Iron Range Research Center, and Hennepin County Library.

We have spent approximately 35 percent of this year's digitization and transcription dollars.

We are now in Round 2, which continues until Jan. 9, 2009, but we accept applications at any time. Consider submitting an application soon and inform others who are thinking about it to start now. Dividing the year into rounds allows MDL staff to better plan our outreach and digitization work.

So far, 13 additional organizations have contacted Marian Rengel, MDL Outreach Coordinator, to say they are planning to submit applications in November and December. If you are interested in an applying to complete a digitization project this year with the Minnesota Digital Library, please, contact her soon. You can reach Marian at 320-308-5625 or [mrregel@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mrregel@stcloudstate.edu). She would like to visit and talk over your projects.

Talk to others, too, at organizations with collections about Minnesota and located in Minnesota. We want to work with them. Have them contact Marian soon to talk about a project.

## University of Minnesota Programs for PreK-12 Students and Educators

The University of Minnesota has developed a website that includes innovative learning experiences designed for children, youth, families, and educators. There is a world of options, including professional development or classroom resources for teachers, a math or music opportunity for youth, summer camps, or a fun visit to a U of M campus for families.

When you are at the website, check the boxes on the left that match interests, such as the age(s) of the children involved or the subject and watch the list of programs realign in response. Click on the triangles for more information, and you can drag and drop the names to create a list of your favorites. Included in this list are ELM, MnLINK Gateway, Research Project Calculator and Minnesota Digital Library.

The site is still taking feedback for changes, suggestions, and improvements:

<http://www.k12.umn.edu/>

## Are Your Library Links Up-to-Date in OCLC WorldCat?

By Sara Ring



Sara Ring

Deep linking connects a search result in OCLC WorldCat to the record in your local catalog. It also enables web users to link from search results (from search engines including Yahoo!, Google, and other partner sites) to the Find in a Library interface, better known as WorldCat.org, and, then, directly to the record in the catalog.

We ask staff of MINITEX participating libraries to check your “deep links” to make sure they are working. MINITEX staff who process interlibrary loan requests have reported a number of dead links, which means problems for library staff and library users alike.

Keeping your links from WorldCat to your local catalog up-to-date is important for two main reasons:

- Interlibrary loan staffs rely on this information when they request an item from your library. For example, MINITEX document delivery staff check an item’s circulation status by clicking on the library link in WorldCat that connects to the item in your local catalog. If this link is broken, the system usually takes staff to your library catalog’s homepage, and they have to retype the search.
- Library users may come across your library on the web via WorldCat.org and see that your library holds the item. By clicking on the library name, the user can be directed to the exact item in your local catalog – provided the link is working properly.

There are two places you should check to make sure your links are set up correctly: the Administrative module on the FirstSearch platform AND the WorldCat Registry.

- The WorldCat Services Administrative Module (formerly called FirstSearch Administrative Module) is a set of web-based administration tools. Library staff can make cosmetic changes to the WorldCat interface, and this is also the location where you can update or check your library’s “deep links” from WorldCat to their local catalog to make sure they are working. It’s likely that whoever at your institution handles access to your institution’s electronic resources also has access to the WorldCat Services Administrative Module. You can get to the WorldCat Services Administrative Module by visiting the following URL:

<http://www.firstsearch.oclc.org/admin>

- The WorldCat Registry is an online directory that contains information about libraries, such as global interlibrary loan policies and web and physical locations. The information here also controls how your library information is displayed in the WorldCat.org interface. Since the WorldCat Registry is relatively new, your library may not have a designated staff person to maintain your library’s entry. You can get to the WorldCat Registry and check to ensure that your library information is complete by visiting the following URL:

<http://www.worldcat.org/registry>

For a step-by-step guide about how to update or check your deep links in both the WorldCat Administrative Module and in the WorldCat Registry, check out the extended article in the November *MINITEX/OCLC Mailing*:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/oclc/2008/11November.pdf>



## WebJunction Minnesota Grows

By Jennifer Hootman



Jennifer Hootman

**WebJunction Minnesota (mn.webjunction.org) is an online community for Minnesota library staff -- a way to connect with other staff members with similar interests and a one-stop site for information and news about Minnesota libraries. And, State Library Services, Metronet, and MINITEX have renewed our WebJunction agreement for another two years!**

### WJMN Learning Center

- Select from a wide range of courses offered at no charge to WJMN-affiliated members — software applications, management, readers' advisory, technical services, University of North Texas Le@d courses, and many more.
- Sign up for courses — complete them online within a year.
- Find links to other MN Continuing Education events.

### Minnesota Resources

- Add your information to WJMN — policies & procedures, tutorials, curriculum, grant projects, program ideas, best practices, marketing ideas, and anything you think is of interest to staff at other MN libraries.
- Browse information for all types of libraries — academic, public, school & special.
- Find workshop & conference proceedings—and add yours.
- Use the content on WJMN & WebJunction Central to improve your library services.
- List your library event on the MN calendar and find events to attend.

- Learn what's new statewide via BlogJunction Minnesota.

### MyWebJunction

- Set up your profile — add as much or as little information as you want to share.
- Find & add friends on WJMN and WebJunction Central.
- See your activity and what your friends are up to on WJ.
- Manage your courses and bookmarks.

### National & Minnesota Discussion Forums

- Join or start a discussion on a topic of interest to you.
- Participate in groups & discussions including MLA/MEMO Advocacy, Destiny Users, & more.
- Use RSS to keep up with the discussions.

WebJunction Minnesota is brought to you by Minnesota State Library Services, Metronet, and MINITEX and is funded in part by the Library Services and Technology Act, a program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning.

For any questions, please contact us at: [mnwebjunction@gmail.com](mailto:mnwebjunction@gmail.com)

## If You Missed the Live Events, Check Out the MINITEX Website

Fall has been a busy meeting season. Check out the Past Events page on the MINITEX website (<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/highlights/>) for access to information about the following conferences and forums:

### 2008 Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting

The first Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting was held at Macalester College on Oct. 16-17. Sponsored by MINITEX and WiLS (Wisconsin

Library Services), the session was attended by more than 80 library and archives staff from 40 institutions. The meeting provided the opportunity for networking and sharing of CONTENTdm best practices among colleagues, as well as a CONTENTdm product update from OCLC and preconference. Presentations and handouts from the sessions are available at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/highlights/2008/contentDm/>

### **2008 MINITEX/OCLC User Group Meeting**

“Creating the Capacity for Change: Transforming Library Workflows and Organization,” the 2008 MINITEX/OCLC User Group meeting, was clearly a case of the right topic at the right time — 160 people from 52 institutions registered for the event. Sessions were held Oct. 21-23 in the Twin Cities, Fargo, and Sioux Falls.

To view the R2 consulting presentation, go to:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/highlights/2008/oclcUserGroup>

To see a few pictures from the event, visit the recent blog post by Mark Wilhelmi:

[http://blogs.minitex.umn.edu/bats/2008/10/2008\\_minitexoclc\\_user\\_group\\_me.html](http://blogs.minitex.umn.edu/bats/2008/10/2008_minitexoclc_user_group_me.html)

### **“From Awareness to Funding: A Study of Library Support in America”**

The OCLC Report, “From Awareness to Funding: A Study of Library Support in America,” was the topic of a forum presented by Cathy De Rosa, Vice President, OCLC, and Principal contributor to the study, which examined the hypothesis:

*U.S. public libraries are facing marketing and advocacy challenges that have been faced by other ‘super brands.’ Lessons learned and successes achieved can be applied to increase library funding. Utilizing marketing and advocacy techniques targeted to the right community segments with the right messages and community programs, we can improve the state of public library funding.*

De Rosa’s presentation and the Question & Answer period that followed during the Oct. 30 forum in St. Paul were videotaped. We will announce when the video is available for viewing.

### **MnLINK User Group Meeting**

Lee Raines, Director, Pew Internet & American Life Project, and Matt Goldner, Executive Director, End User Services, OCLC, were the featured speakers at the MnLINK User Group Meeting Nov. 12. The day’s activities also included a panel of Minnesota library directors who will discuss Open Source Integrated Library Systems and possible Open Source developments in Minnesota.

Handouts from the meeting will be posted on the Past Events when they are available.

## **FROM THE MINITEX REGION**

### **Directorship Changes in MINITEX Libraries**

This summer and fall have seen several changes in directorships of MINITEX participating libraries. Among them:

**Thomas Bremer** is the new Dean of Libraries at Winona State University. Formerly Director of Public Services at North Dakota State University, Bremer assumed his new role at Winona State in July. While at NDSU, he held positions including Head of Reference, Assistant Director for Collection Management & Reference Services, Associate Director, and Director of Public Services. Earlier, he worked for several years at Montana State University. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bremer has been active in the American Library Association as well as the North Dakota Library Association.

**Anne Cooper Moore** became Dean of Libraries for The University of South Dakota in early September.

Moore came to Vermillion from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she was Associate Director for User Services. Previously, she held positions at a number of institutions including New Mexico State University, George Mason University, and the University of Arizona. She has a PhD in Educational Management and Development with Concentration in Higher Education Administration and Technology Integration and a Masters degree in Library and Information Science.

**Dennis Page**, Director of the Grand Forks Public Library, passed away on June 30, the result of a heart attack he suffered while on vacation at his family lake home near Menomonie, WI. In noting his passing, *The Good Stuff*, the newsletter of the North Dakota Library Association, said he joined the Fargo Public Library staff after graduating from Mayville State University. He went on to earn his Master's in Library Science at the University of Denver, and became Director of the Grand Forks Public Library in 1968 – the position he held until his death. Page was an active member of NDLA. Three GFPL colleagues — David Haney, Toni Vonasek, and Connie Wylot — are cooperating to serve as interim director until Page's successor can be named.

**Michele Reid** is the new Dean of Libraries at North Dakota State University. Previously, she was director of Hoover Library and Chief Information Officer at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Reid's new position in Fargo brings her back to the MINITEX region. Reid worked at the South Dakota State Library during the 1990s and says she is familiar with the tri-state region and its organization of information services and systems. Reid earned a master's degree in library studies from the University of South Florida, a master's degree in medieval history from Rutgers University, and a bachelor's degree in Education Resource Services at Bryn Mawr Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration.

**Amy Ryan** has left her position as Director of the Hennepin County (MN) Library to become President of the Boston Public Library (BPL). She assumed her new position Oct. 1. Ryan is the first woman named President in the BPL's more than 150-year history. She headed Hennepin County Library since 2005, leading the county system during its merger with Minneapolis Public Library earlier this year and serving as Director of the merged library. In announcing her appointment, the Board of Trustees of Boston Public Library cited her extensive knowledge of big city library systems, her management styles, understanding of technology, and commitment to community libraries.

Lois Langer Thompson has been named Interim Director while a search is conducted for Ryan's successor at Hennepin County Library.

## Metro Area Library Honored in Design Competition

The Maplewood Branch of the Ramsey County (MN) Library has received an Honorable Mention in a 2008 national design competition. The Maplewood Branch was honored in the 2008 ALA/International Interior Design Association competition in the category for buildings over 30,000 square feet.

The building, designed by HGA Architects and Engineers of Minneapolis, incorporates the use of natural daylight, special lighting, and the outlines of leaves into its signage and graphics. The building also has reconfigurable physical spaces and collections and staff desks that require less space in many libraries.

The Library is adjacent to the Maplewood Sculpture Garden and a wetland area.

## NDLA Features 1st Annual Innovative Book Cart Competition

The Annual Conference of the American Library Association has its book cart drill team competitions. This fall, North Dakota Library Association came up with a unique twist on the concept: the 1st Annual Innovative Book Cart Competition.

Three entrants took part in the competition, and it was obvious that they put time and effort into their entries. The winners were as follows: (there was only a difference of two votes between each)

- Gold Book Cart Award: Arlene Gunderson, Viking Media Center, Viking Elementary School
- Silver Book Cart Award: Doris Ott and the North Dakota State Library Staff
- Bronze Book Cart Award: Christine Kujawa and Zack Packineau, Bismarck Public Library

To see the winners, check:

<http://www.geocities.com/exlibrisisque/bookcartwinners.html>

## Watertown (SD) Library to Host John Adams Exhibit

The Watertown Regional Library in Watertown, SD, is one of 20 libraries across the country that was selected to host “John Adams Unbound,” a traveling exhibition based upon a larger exhibition of the same name recently on display at the Boston Public Library. The exhibit is scheduled to be in Watertown from Aug.18-Oct. 8, 2010.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provided major funding to the Boston Public Library for the traveling exhibit.

Libraries selected for the tour will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibit for six weeks. They will receive a \$2,500 grant from the NEH for attendance at an exhibit planning workshop and other exhibit-related expenses. Participating libraries will present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhi-

bition themes. All showings of the exhibition and related programs will be free and open to the public.

The exhibit explores Adams’s personal library – 3,500 books willed by Adams to the people of Massachusetts and deposited in the Boston Public Library in 1894. Through photo-reproductions of the annotated volumes, exhibit visitors can witness how one of the founding fathers wrestled with intellectual and political ideas at every stage in his life.

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