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By the Numbers — MINITEX Resource Sharing, FY06 & July-Dec. 2006

By Bill DeJohn

Let's look back over some of the events of FY06 that impacted resource sharing in the MINITEX region – some had been anticipated, and some not. Many will have consequences and ramifications that will continue into FY07 and beyond:

- We gained a full year's experience with MnLINK Gateway VDX/ZPORTAL activity – much of which was generated by unmediated, patron-initiated interlibrary loan requests. Over 375,000 requests were created by end users, library staff, and MINITEX staff.
- The University of Minnesota Libraries, Twin Cities, upgraded to Ex Libris' Aleph Version 17 and implemented Aleph ILL on a University server that's used by the MINITEX Office. (Note: the University upgraded to Version 18 in Aug. 2006).
- MnPALS completed migration of its member libraries to Aleph, and libraries began using Aleph ILL to send requests to the MINITEX Office and to each other. (Note: MnPALS upgraded to Aleph 17 in Dec. 2006).
- The MINITEX Document Delivery staff, with assistance from University of Minnesota Libraries staff, worked with ODIN staff in North Dakota to prepare an ISO connection for exchanging interlibrary loan requests between the two systems' Aleph ILL servers. (Note: We hope this will occur with SDLN in 2007).
- The MINITEX Delivery System experienced a 25% increase in the volume of items traveling through the Office and the Delivery System.
- The combination of services and collaboration among all types of libraries enables the leveraging of state and local investments.



Bill DeJohn

These events conspired to completely scramble the statistical projections for FY06 and FY07 that we had made over the last few years. Suffice it to say that the request volume is UP all over, including interlibrary loan, circulation, and materials moving through local, regional, and statewide delivery systems. Of the over 375,000 requests created by library patrons and staff using the MnLINK Gateway Get it! button, more than 211,000 (56%) were filled – either by another Gateway server site or through the MINITEX Office (which may have used a Gateway server site or one of our non-MnLINK resources).

I consider the 56% fill rate too low, but it needs to be put into context: a majority of these requests are for loans (returnables) and a very large percentage of the loans are for non-book items like DVDs, videobooks, audiobooks, CDs, etc. Many of these items are in circulation at the owning libraries and, therefore, can't be filled. Hence, the lower fill rate.

Filled loan requests are returnables, and that means they have to get back to their owning library. They travel two ways:

- first, to the borrowing library, often through one or two delivery systems,
- then, back to the lending library, reversing the staff handling and delivery systems that occurred initially.

And, now the numbers for FY06

MINITEX is staffed to provide access to the collections of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Libraries for book loans and photocopies, which the University has agreed to provide at no charge to support MINITEX's service program and as an example of the Libraries' outreach services as a part of the University's land grant mission. MINITEX staff also visit the Minneapolis Public Library's new Central Library daily to search for and check out loans and to photocopy articles.

In FY06, the MINITEX staff searched for 130,149 requests for book loans (returnables) and photocopied articles (non-returnables) in the collections of the University of Minnesota Libraries and filled 114,978, or 88%. Of the requests filled from the University Libraries' collections, 94,695 requests, or 82%, were filled for Minnesota libraries. Of that total, 60% were for photocopies, and 40% were for loans, i.e. returnables. The increase in loans from the University Libraries was 16% over the same period in 2005, which, in my opinion, is a result of MnLINK Gateway activity through which users can initiate a loan request that goes directly to an owning library. And, with a research collection of over 6 million volumes, the Libraries receive many requests.

MINITEX staff searched Minneapolis Public Library for material for 3,915 requests and filled 3,267 requests for loans and photocopies, or 83%. This fill rate is lower than in the past because a large part of the Central Library's collection was in storage until

May 2006, when the new building opened. Through Dec. 2006 (i.e., in the first six months of FY07), we saw the number of filled loans and copies from the Minneapolis Public Library collections rise to 4,403 loans and photocopies, an increase of 139% over the same period in 2005.

Between the two collections searched by the MINITEX staff in FY06, a total of 118,245 requests were filled, representing 39% of the requests received from libraries in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin. The majority of these requests are filled in less than 24 hours. The material is sent to requesting libraries via courier, electronically, UPS, or first class mail.

We've been watching requests for book loans increase and requests for photocopies decrease because end-users and local library staff have more access to general magazines and academic journals with full-text articles through electronic databases, the Internet in general, and the use of SFX and other open linking tools that direct patrons to licensed electronic journal articles to which their libraries subscribe.

Requests transmitted to the MINITEX Office in FY06 from libraries in MN, ND, SD, & WI

The following is a quick snapshot of some statistics that we track during any fiscal year. The full report contains more specific information about groups of libraries in Minnesota, as well as statistics for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. (The full report can be found on the MINITEX website at http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/advisory/sep_t2006/report.pdf)

- Libraries of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions sent 38,892 requests of which MINITEX filled 32,116, or 83%.
 - 44% of MnSCU requests were for loans, and 56% were for copies.
- Libraries of Minnesota private colleges sent 64,346 requests of which MINITEX filled 57,020, or 89%.
 - 32% of MN private college requests were for loans, and 68% were for copies.
- Minnesota public libraries sent 145,112 requests of which MINITEX filled 95,121, or 66%.
 - 96% of MN public library requests were for loans, and 4% were for copies.

Referral of Requests to Other Libraries

When MINITEX staff determine that material is not available from the University Libraries and/or Minneapolis Public Library, we rely upon an effective referral network that includes libraries throughout the three-state region plus Wisconsin libraries, the University of Alberta, the Illinois State Library, and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Referrals are an important part of the MINITEX Library Information Network because participating MINITEX libraries agree to share their resources with MINITEX and with one another. Once a referral request is sent, MINITEX no longer has control of it and must rely on local staff to spend their time and resources to process the request in a timely manner.

MINITEX sent referrals to the following groups of libraries in FY06. Requests sent to:

- Minnesota private colleges: 38,361 requests of which 73% were filled.
- Minnesota public libraries: 63,366 requests of which 63% were filled.
- Minnesota State Colleges & Universities: 15,592 of which 76% were filled.

Referral requests are also sent to state government libraries, health science libraries, hospital libraries, and libraries in North and South Dakota.

Trends and Observations

MINITEX and local library staffs are satisfying a significant percentage of customers' desires for materials, but it doesn't come without a cost. As efficient and effective as we try to make the interlibrary loan systems we use, there is a cost for handling an interlibrary loan request that is not filled — and more cost if it is filled because the material has to be returned, handled, and reshelved.

Our customers want something to read, listen to, or view. They want their library systems to be as simple to use as Amazon and Google, and they want their

requests to be filled and material delivered to them as quickly as possible. And, they are not interested in the processing, procedures, and rules we have created to make all of this work together. There is a growing philosophical discussion about what types of requests should be sent on interlibrary loan. This discussion includes such factors as the material's cost, format, type, and date as well as the cost of staff processing of the loans.

I hope we can begin a dialogue about these issues during FY07/FY08 because, in looking out 2-3 years, I only see increasing numbers of interlibrary loan requests demanded by our customers as they learn more about the MnLINK Gateway and the more 30 million resources available to them in Minnesota. Users can make requests whenever and wherever they want, and they are doing so at all hours of the day — even between 2-3:00 a.m.

We need to have increased dialogue with our customers who use interlibrary loan, and we need to listen more closely about what they want and when they want to receive it. For too long, libraries have viewed interlibrary loan as an optional service that they want to control because of the cost. Actually, these requested items are titles that people really want, but that their own library doesn't have for various reasons. And, I think we have to figure out how best to handle these requests in some reasonable fashion.

These users are an important part of our citizen support group, and we may have to bite the bullet and find ways to listen to them more than we have in the past. Review the user comments submitted to the MINITEX Office that were presented in the Oct. 30 *MESSENGER EXTRA*

[\(<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/messenger/supp1006.pdf>\)](http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/messenger/supp1006.pdf)

People want information and/or materials and interlibrary loan is one way we have to get them. They will support libraries who ask them to do so because it is a direct benefit to them.

ELM and What It Costs

By Bill DeJohn



I thought it would be helpful to share the annual subscription costs for the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) as well as the amount saved by having a statewide contract between MINITEX and the vendors of the ELM databases. Actually, MINITEX negotiated a three-state contract with each ELM vendor, so North and South Dakota have the benefit of the pricing also. Minnesota saves about \$100,000 annually by doing this, but it does get more complicated since the vendors don't usually do multi-state contracts.

Adding the annual subscription list prices for Minnesota academic, public, school, or state government libraries, the total cost would be in excess of \$35 million if each library subscribed to most of the appropriate ELM databases individually.

Our FY06 licensing subscription cost was \$1,853,352 for databases from EBSCO, Gale/InfoTrac, Proquest, and OCLC. (See <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/elm/product.asp> for a list of ELM resources.) That was supported by \$900,000 from the Minnesota Dept. of Education/State Library Services and \$953,352 from the MINITEX budget, through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

There were 10.4 million searches in the ELM databases in FY06, so that would average \$0.18 per search. There were 6,989,687 full text retrievals during FY06, so that would come out to an average of \$0.27 per full text retrieval. A recent Ohio study used \$10 per full text retrieval for its calculation of value. (See p. 16 of: <http://9libraries.info/docs/EconomicBenefitsStudy.pdf>)

The above costs are not complete because they **do not** include many of the administrative and support costs that support ELM.

For example:

The costs for MINITEX to negotiate contracts, administer the RFP process, provide technical and administrative support to all Minnesota libraries and school media centers, handle billing and invoicing, pay for the Minnesota State Fair exhibit where we

promote the ELM databases, and support other ELM administrative activities are included in the MINITEX budget supported by the Office of Higher Education. Funds from the MINITEX budget and an LSTA grant from State Library Services are used to provide ELM training throughout Minnesota; this includes the costs of onsite training, webinars, exhibiting and presenting at conferences, telephone support, travel, and so on.

Local libraries incur costs as well. For example, libraries have costs related to keeping links to the ELM databases on their webpages, answering patrons' questions about searching the ELM resources, promoting ELM as well as other databases to which they may subscribe, keeping printers operating from which patrons (and staff) print articles, and additional local support.

Licensing costs for ELM have increased for the current fiscal year, and this has direct bearing on the budget request that MINITEX is making during this year's session of the Minnesota Legislature for FY08/09. The FY07 cost to license statewide ELM subscriptions is \$1,917,758 – or 3.5% above that for FY06. However, this is supported by the same amount (\$900,000) from the Minnesota Department of Education/State Library Services plus an increase of 6.8% (or, \$1,017,758) from the MINITEX budget.

Considering Warren Buffet's comment, "price is what you pay, value is what you get," it would appear that in FY06, the price we paid for ELM licensing costs was just over \$1.8 million, but the received value was over \$35 million, which isn't bad. The real value is depicted in the ELM stories that we receive from local library staff in K12 schools and academic, public, and state government libraries in terms of how ELM resources have helped Minnesotans. That's the real value of ELM, and it is difficult to put a number on that return on investment.

For example, see the following ELM story recently sent to the MINITEX Office:

From Mountain Iron, MN: I've shared stories before because we have used these great resources for awhile now. Often in my media center, I put two researching high school students to the 'access info' time test; Google vs. ELM database. ELM always wins by a landslide. And the first thing I think about as I train Elementary students to use ELM are the outbursts: 'WOW!' and 'OOOW Cool!.' Buhl IDS 712 (Shelly Ceglar)

Update on FULL TEXT Usage of ELM during FY06

By Bill DeJohn

In the September issue of *MESSENGER*, I detailed the usage of Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) resources by the number of searches. In this article, I am concentrating on full text retrieval or downloads. The number of searches is important, but a question follows quickly, “Did the users find what they wanted?”

It’s difficult to determine whether, when users retrieve and print some full text, they are finding what they seek. At this point, these data are what we have to review. A thorough evaluation of ELM usage would require considerable expenditure of time and funding to link searching to discovery to printout and answer the question, “Was it what you were looking for?”

ELM full text retrieval for FY06 was 30% higher than the numbers for the same ELM databases in FY05. In FY06, there were approximately 6,989,687 full-text retrievals from ELM databases compared with 5,366,900 full-text retrievals in FY05. Therefore, it appears that people are finding something they want to print. These can be journal, magazine, or newspaper articles or a biography of someone from one of the reference databases.

The following data compares ‘full-text’ retrievals among the various databases and types of libraries using ELM.

The general profile of ELM Full Text Retrieval in FY06 compared with FY05 is as follows:

<i><u>Vendor</u></i>	<i><u>FY06 Full Text</u></i>	<i><u>Percent</u></i>	<i><u>FY05 Full Text</u></i>	<i><u>Percent</u></i>
EBSCO	5,010,156	72%	3,603,005	67%
Gale/InfoTrac	1,096,701	16%	909,845	17%
Proquest	882,830	13%	854,050	16%
Total	6,989,687	101%	5,366,900	100%

<i><u>Type of Library</u></i>	<i><u>FY06 Full Text</u></i>	<i><u>Percent</u></i>	<i><u>FY05 Full Text</u></i>	<i><u>Percent</u></i>
Academic	4,873,379	70%	3,387,315	63%
K12	1,304,128	19%	1,118,725	21%
Public	591,379	8%	592,479	11%
Special	220,801	3%	268,381	5%
Total	6,989,687	100%	5,366,900	100%

Because academic libraries were responsible for 56% of the searches in FY06, it follows that they would be responsible for a large percentage of the full-text retrievals. That also follows for K12 schools, since they were 30% of the searches — and are 19% of the full-text retrieval. One caveat about K12, though: some of the Gale/InfoTrac databases provide answers to questions and searches, but don’t always support full-text retrievals. For example, K12 searches in the Discovering Collection numbered 636,079, but there were only 95,135 full text-retrievals, or 15%. However, Student Edition among K12 schools had 686,519 searches and 440,998 full –text retrievals, or 64%. So, there is a content issue in these databases that probably governs how much full-text is being retrieved in response to a ‘discovery’ response.

Both academic and K12 institutions tend to have captive audiences in that students are attending classes, and teachers and faculty are pointing them to these databases — or their primary library at their institution has made these databases easily available to them. However, in public libraries, these databases are usually listed on webpages along with locally subscribed electronic resources.

People have to be aware of terminology used by libraries on their webpages. Many of these resources are listed by the title of the vendor’s database, which means very little to a person searching for information. Therefore, when we see that among searches, public libraries accounted for 11% of the usage and among full–text retrievals public libraries accounted for 8% of the searches, there are some deep-seated reasons that are not easily overcome.

MINTEX is exploring a much more aggressive marketing approach for the Electronic Library for Minnesota in FY07 and FY08.

Send Us Your ELM Stories!

Our ELM Story feedback form is ready for input, and we request that you share information about how you have used Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) resources over the past two years. We are asking Minnesota House and Senate higher education committees to approve increases for the MINITEX budget for FY08/09 – including an increase for ELM resources so we can add more electronic resources to ELM.

Your stories are important because we share them with legislators, and they are very compelling, especially when you provide very specific stories of how you used ELM resources to teach, answer questions, and/or provide information. It is important that we be able to sort the stories by city and county, which is helpful for legislators and administrators.

Go to <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/forms/elm/feed-back.asp> and share your stories.

ELM Stories : ELM Database : Electronic Resources : CPERS : Programs & Services : MINITEX 2/5/07 8:06 AM

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Advanced Search / Search Help

GENERAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES PUBLICATIONS TRAINING & CONFERENCES COMMITTEES

MINITEX Home > Programs & Services > CPERS > ELM Databases > ELM Stories

ELM Stories

Tell us your story on how you have used the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) resources in your classes, to serve your users or other ways in which you have found ELM resources to be useful. We will compile the information below and the ELM stories and share them to educate legislators, administrators and others about the importance of ELM resources for Minnesotans.

We welcome your ideas, comments and suggestions. Your input will help us in serving you better. (Some fields in the feedback form are required and others are optional. All can be helpful to others in case of follow-up.)

* indicates required field

Name:

Email Address:

Institution:

City:

County:

Phone Number:

Share Your ELM Story:

Submit

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AND, IN OTHER MINITEX NEWS

MnLINK Update By Becky Ringwelski



Upgrade to MnLINK Gateway Software Coming Soon



Becky Ringwelski

We are testing the Version 3.1 upgrade of the ZPORTAL/VDX system, which supports the MnLINK Gateway. This Version's enhancements include the handling of formats in both the searching and interlibrary loan functions. This is a great enhancement for patrons and library staff. We have received a number of queries from patrons who want to limit their searches based on format, and this upgrade will make that possible. The enhanced ability of the VDX interlibrary loan system to determine potential lenders based on format will mean more requests will go directly to lending locations, bypassing the MINITEX office for processing. This should be a more expedient method for handling requests.

Also included in the upgrade will be mechanisms for handling the NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP) between the VDX ILL system and a local library's automation system. Traverse des Sioux is the first library system that will take advantage of the streamlined request processing functionality that NCIP allows.

2nd Annual Regional Ex Libris Users' Group Meeting

Planning is underway for the 2nd Annual Regional Ex Libris Users' Group Meeting to be held at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park, MN, on March 5-6. Gregg Silvis, Assistant Director for Library Computing Systems, the University of Delaware Library will be the keynote speaker addressing "The Impending Demise of the Local OPAC."

Planning for this meeting includes a one-day post-conference SFX Refresher Training conducted by Ex Libris staff. Attendance for this session will be limited.

Information regarding the specific sessions and registration material will be distributed in early February. The conference website is located at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/announce/exlibris2007.asp>

Discuss New Library Web Site Terminology Guidelines

As part of the work of the MINITEX/Minnesota State Library Standards Review Task Force, MINITEX is hosting a wiki to spur discussion by library staff of issues related to library and information standards. This wiki (see: <http://wiki.minitex.umn.edu/StandardsTaskForce>) is the first public wiki created by MINITEX, and we welcome your participation.

The wiki's first discussion topic is a new document, "Library Web Site Terminology: Interim Minnesota Guidelines," issued by a Standards Task Force Working Group that was directed to *"identify terms or phrases that:*

- *Can be used to standardize library web page language to make the pages understandable for the typical library user.*
- *Can help users navigate easily to services and resources offered by libraries, such as online information resources."*

As you'll see in the "Guidelines" document, the Group found the charge challenging. The Group has developed recommendations applicable for Minnesota public and academic libraries, but the members have also identified more work to be done. Read the report, and offer your comments and suggestions!

Speaking in more general terms, the Standards Task Force is interested in suggestions for standards-related areas for it to explore.

- What standards are there that your library uses and finds helpful?
- Are there standards that only go part way to the solution of a problem for your library?
- What emerging standards would you like to learn more about?
- What do you see as the most beneficial role that the Task Force can play for libraries in Minnesota?

Check out MINITEX's Blogs!

The MINITEX BATS unit has added a new entry into MINITEX's list of blogs, which are designed to help communicate information to staff members of participating libraries. The BATS blog, which is intended to keep library staff up-to-date with current topics and future trends related to technical services, will feature tools and services to help improve workflow and link library staff to additional resources and literature.

The BATS blog, like the other MINITEX blogs, is open to library staff members who wish to leave comments, and we hope it will help facilitate discussion throughout the region about issues important to you.

To access blogs for MINITEX BATS, CPERS, Document Delivery, and Reference Services as well as separate blogs for Digital Reference, ELM, and MnLINK VDX, see:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/blogs/index.asp>

MINITEX Participates in 2007 MN Legislative Conference

MINITEX was among the 13 exhibitors at the 2007 Legislative Conference for members of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives held on Jan. 9 at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The Conference was hosted by the Minnesota Legislature and the Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

All Minnesota legislators were invited to attend this conference, which was designed to provide them with background about Minnesota's changing demographics and their impact on the economy, the changing role of the legislature, and technology and the global economy. Sessions were planned to stimulate legislators to think about their role in determining Minnesota's future.

Exhibitors provided interactive technology displays on process improvements in state government and other technologies funded by the Legislature. Bill DeJohn and Jennifer Hootman, MINITEX Reference Librarian, demonstrated databases included in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), MnLINK, the Research

Project Calculator, and the Minnesota Digital Library's "Minnesota Reflections" collection. About 80 packets of information were handed to legislators as they stopped by the MINITEX exhibit for the demonstrations.

We thank Robbie LaFleur, Director, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, who was on the Conference planning committee and was instrumental in seeing that MINITEX as invited to be an exhibitor.

Remember, Use the Courtesy Bookmarks!

DO NOT REMOVE THIS BOOKMARK
ROUTE THIS BOOK THROUGH THE
MINITEX DELIVERY SYSTEM TO:

Send To: _____
DATE SENT: _____

**MINITEX COURTESY
RETURN ROUTING
FORM**

This form is to be used to return non-MINITEX items using the MINITEX Overnight Delivery System.

Directions:
Use the MINITEX Overnight Courier locations list to locate the three letter code of the owning library. Write in the owning library's code at the space on the top of this form. Write or stamp the date the item is processed for shipment to the MINITEX office. Place the routing slip in the item you wish to return. Place the item in the MINITEX tub. The item will be sorted to the proper location at the MINITEX office.

Questions regarding the use of this form should be directed to the MINITEX Delivery Unit at 612-624-4575

Courtesy Returns Slip
REV. 11/00 PRINT ON ORANGE

MINITEX created a **courtesy bookmark** for return of books that patrons drop off at a different Minnesota library than the one from which they checked them out. In FY06, we counted 7,064 books being returned through this special service via the MINITEX Delivery System — an increase of 25% over FY05.

Please ensure that ALL staff at branches and user-service desks who are likely to interact with patrons know of this procedure and the special bookmarks. Also, all ILL Office staff should know about this procedure so they can handle the returns appropriately.

If your library needs copies of Courtesy Bookmark, please go to the site listed below and choose "order bookmarks" in the left frame.

Check out the procedures at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/delivery/services/both.asp#return>

In Minnesota, the MINITEX Delivery System is funded through the MINITEX budget and an LSTA grant from the Minnesota Dept. of Education/Minnesota State Library.

WebJunction and MINITEX: The Year in Review

By Sara Ring & Jennifer Hootman

During 2006, MINITEX participated in the WebJunction Beta Program (see the article in the April 14, 2006 *MESSENGER*) to test a suite of online training tools. One of WebJunction's goals is to increase the e-teaching capabilities of library organizations by offering affordable online tools.

Together with 10 other library organizations, MINITEX staff provided feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of each tool as we incorporated them into our existing online training. As a result of our feedback, WebJunction has chosen a web conferencing service, referred to as the Live Space Service.

Because Minnesota is a WebJunction Community Partner (WebJunction Minnesota – WJMN), we not only will have access to this new service but also will receive training and ongoing support. WJMN partners include MINITEX, Metronet, and State Library Services.

Along with our primary web conferencing software, Microsoft Live Meeting, MINITEX plans to use the Live Space Service to supplement our online training, and we are excited about the new possibilities this will give us.

Key features of the Live Space service are:

- Unlimited seats (i.e., there is no preset limit on the number of participants in a Live Space session)
- Voice over IP
- Polling and Quizzing
- Public and Private Text Chat



Sara Ring



Jennifer Hootman

- Breakout rooms
- Session recording that captures all activity
- Desktop sharing

WebJunction's Live Space Service is only the beginning of a coordinated effort moving toward better and affordable e-training options for all types of library organizations. If you are interested in learning more about where WebJunction is headed, take a look at WebJunction's "Trends in E-Learning For Library Staff" report:

<http://mn.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=14077>

Learn more about WebJunction's new Live Space Service at:

<http://mn.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=14519>

In other WebJunction news, watch for a redesign of WJMN's parent site, WebJunction. An online community for library staff to meet to share ideas, solve problems, and do online coursework, WebJunction has been awarded a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance usability and help it keep pace with a growing audience and range of content.

WebJunction features online learning, training tips and tools that will be more accessible and better organized after the planned redesign and enhancement. As a WebJunction Community Partner, the look and usability of WJMN will benefit from this redesign.

Watch for changes to webjunction.org in the next few weeks. Watch for changes to the Minnesota Community Partner site, mn.webjunction.org, shortly thereafter!



Where minds meet.™

NEWS FROM THE MINITEX REGION

Merger of Hennepin County & Minneapolis Public Libraries Considered

Officials of Minneapolis Public Library are moving forward with plans needed to meet the budget shortfalls facing the system. Three of the system's 15 libraries have been closed indefinitely, and all 12 remaining libraries, including the new Central Library, are closed on Mondays.

Also, the Committee on the Future of Libraries in Hennepin County, made up of Hennepin County and Minneapolis elected officials and board members from both libraries, is expected to recommend that the Hennepin County Library and the Minneapolis Public Library be merged. The recommendation may come when the Committee holds its meeting on Feb. 8. (See an article in the Jan. 29 Minneapolis *StarTribune* for more information:

<http://www.startribune.com/106/v-print/story/962577.html>)

A second committee, the Library Advisory Committee, which includes business, civic, and government leaders, is charged with advising the Library's trustees on "a funding structure for the Minneapolis Public Library system capable of sustaining quality library services. Because funding is deeply intertwined with governance, the Committee advice may also include observations concerning the existing Minneapolis Public Library governance structure." This Committee is expected to finish its work in April.

Information about Minneapolis Public Library and the discussions about its future are available at the Library's website: <http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/> The information about the Committee on the Future of Libraries in Hennepin County is also available on the Hennepin County Library website: <http://www.hclib.org/futureoflibraries/>

Pilot Project Begins

By Stacey Goldade

(from the January/February 2007 issue of the North Dakota State Library's FLICKERTALE, <http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/Flickertale/2007%20Jan%20Feb.pdf>)

Three North Dakota libraries have been chosen for a pilot project. Hebron Public Library, Hebron Public School, and Glen Ullin Public School will have their holdings added to WorldCat (OCLC), which is an international database with over 70 million titles. WorldCat (OCLC) is available on the State Library Web site.

The purpose of the project is to allow the libraries involved to use whatever circulation system they choose, but still participate in the Interlibrary Loan program in the state. Since the libraries involved are geographically close to each other, another benefit is that they can easily share books with each other by sending them with teachers who are traveling back and forth between the two towns.

The project entails work by the staff of the libraries and the Statewide Catalog Development Department of the State Library. The staff of the libraries supplied the State Library with information on the titles they owned. The State Library staff is now in the process of cataloging each title into WorldCat (OCLC).

While the project is not yet complete, everyone involved is excited to see the results of this new idea. When the cataloging is completed, North Dakota libraries will be notified of how they will be able to contact the libraries to borrow something that they own.

(A note from the MINITEX Bibliographic and Technical Services staff: These libraries do not have any OCLC ILL access or capabilities. They are listed as non-suppliers.)

Legislative Reference Library Builds Database About MN Legislators

Minnesota Legislators Past and Present, a new database of information about all legislators who have served the state of Minnesota, is available thanks to the work of the staff of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. The database is available at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/legdb/index.asp>

Launched last Nov. 17, Legislative Reference Library Director Robbie LaFleur told the *St. Paul Legal Ledger* that the database is thought to first of its kind in the U.S. As would be expected, there is more information available about more recent legislators, but all of the more than 5000 legislators are represented. The database provides both print and video resources.

As LaFleur told the *Legal Ledger* (for an article in the Nov. 27 issue), the LRL staff has received more information since the database became available. "One of the great things about this database is that we expect it to be collaborative in that we hope that when someone finds their grandfather and doesn't see much information, they'll send it to us."

Retirements at SDSU

The library staff at South Dakota State University (SDSU) have said good bye to two long-time colleagues, Dean Steve Marquardt and Bang (B.J.) Kim, Head of Cataloging and Technical Services. Marquardt retired in December and Kim in January.

Marquardt retired after 10 years of leadership and service to the SDSU and to the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN). Most recently, he served as Chair of the SDLN Advisory Council and as an active member of South Dakota Library Association's Library Issues committee.

Marquardt retires after a library career including 14 years as Director of the University of Wisconsin — Eau Claire's library and his 10 years at SDSU.

Clark Hallman will act as Interim Dean while the search for Marquardt's successor proceeds.

Kim retired on Jan. 19 after nearly 38 years of service at SDSU. She made important contributions to library service in South Dakota through her work in the Hilton M. Briggs Library and through her active involvement in SDLN. A retirement reception in her honor was held on Jan. 12.

Mary Caspers-Graper replaces Kim as Head of Technical Services and OCLC contact.

Hennepin County Library Librarian Wins NYT Librarian Award for 2006

Dana Bjerke, a Youth Services librarian at Ridgedale Library in Minnetonka, MN, was one of 21 librarians from across the country to win a New York Times Librarian Award for 2006. The award “recognizes those librarians in public libraries whose exemplary performance and outstanding community service have made their libraries friendlier and more accessible institutions.”

Bjerke was the only librarian in the MINITEX region to receive the award this year. She received her award and a check for \$2,500 at an award ceremony at the New York Times in December.

Bjerke is well known to visitors at Children’s Area of Hennepin County Library’s Ridgedale Library. Her library storytimes quickly fill with kids and their caregivers. She also works with teens who have stopped by for a school assignment and stayed to volunteer throughout their middle and high school years.

Bjerke was nominated for the Award by longtime Ridgedale teen volunteers. The winning nomination was written by Shalene Gupta, an Eden Prairie resident who is now a freshman at Johns Hopkins University. Bjerke says the librarian-volunteer experience is mutually beneficial.

Bjerke earned a Master’s degree in Library Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked as an Outreach librarian at the St. Croix County Library, as a reference librarian at the East Central Regional Library in Cambridge, MN, and in Reference and Children’s Services at the Anoka County Library. She joined the Youth Services staff at the Ridgedale Library in 1999.

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