Reports included below are:

- State Universities, Joan Roca
- Public Libraries Report, Mary Lukkarila
- Private Colleges, Dan Gjelten
- U of M Twin Cities Campus, Wendy Pradt Lougee
- Multi-Type, Multi-County Library Systems, Ruth Solie
- Regional System Libraries, Chris Olson
- University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus, Bill Sozansky
- State Government Libraries, Karla Gedell
- County Libraries, Pat Conley
- K12 Schools, Susan M. Meyer

State Universities Report
Joan Roca, Minnesota State University, Mankato
March 6, 2008

Metropolitan State University - David Barton, Director
The library now has an internal wiki for communications among staff and to collect policies and procedures in one place that all staff can access. We also have setup a Facebook page as another way to try to reach students who don't come into the library itself.

Next year may present a staffing challenge as one librarian is on sabbatical during fall semester, another during spring semester, and a third is planning on beginning phased retirement. So far, however, we have not experienced any funding cuts and the planning for next year is only projected at a 5% to 7.5% reduction. The fact that our student population has increased about 8% this year certainly helps and, like other "state-supported" universities, 52% of our income now comes from tuition and only 47% from state funds.

Minnesota State University, Mankato – Joan Roca, Dean
The Library is planning for a 10% cut in the coming year that will affect both staffing and collections. Planning for next year also will take into account that two librarians will be on their final year of phased retirement and two librarians will be on sabbatical during spring semester. We also have a technician position that is not being filled at the current time due to budget uncertainties.

As a result of the continued collaboration with the IT department, the Library has added new meeting rooms for student use:

- **Six Group Study Rooms** - Each has a custom-designed table with a 32” LCD display, projection control system, computer and space for 6-8 students. The rooms provide students with technology-enhanced setting to practice presentations with similar equipment to that of MSU classrooms.
- **Seminar Room** - This meeting room features two 50” plasma screens on opposing walls and a 10-station laptop conference table that hides the laptops when not in use and provides a perfect setup for meetings, small group instruction and/or seminars. The Geneva Logic Vision6 Classroom Management software allows instructor control over student computers and the projection of student screens.

Winona State University – Thomas Bremer, Dean
The state's current and projected budget shortfall has caused some immediate impacts on our library. The Governor's initial FY09 unallotment caused WSU to freeze our search for a technician position vacancy in Access Services. This position has also been cut from next biennium's budget, so as we head into the new fiscal year we have lost one position. Also we have been asked to hold off spending 25% of our remaining unencumbered budget as a possible contribution to an anticipated second unallotment.

Planning for the next biennia continues and is guided by WSU's commitment to make structural changes to reduce the university's base budget. For the Library this will result in cuts to both our personnel and collections budgets. In addition to losing the Access Services position, we are developing scenarios reducing extra duty days currently assigned to our librarian faculty. We are also developing scenarios reducing our acquisitions budget at 10%, 20%, and 30% levels. The actual magnitude of the cuts will be decided as a clearer budget
Winona State University – Thomas Bremer, Dean
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On a happier note, despite the existing and projected budget deficits, WSU Library continues with efforts to provide the very best collection and services possible. Shortly we will be installing digital signage that will be useful in promoting and advertising library events, services, and collections. The system will also help broadcast emergency warnings.

Submitted by Joan Roca, State Universities Representative

Public Libraries Report
Mary Lukkarila, Director, Cloquet Public Library
March 6, 2009

Austin Public Library – Ann Hokanson, Director
Austin Public Library is hosting a bilingual Spanish-English traveling Smithsonian exhibit on the life of baseball legend Roberto Clemente in April and May. We expect to draw visitors from a 100 mile radius; but most visitors will be local.

Cloquet Public Library – Mary Lukkarila, Director
No definite reductions to the library budget have been made. City administration is waiting for the final word on how much LGA will be cut and whether there are any changes to Maintenance of Effort. In the meantime, department heads have been asked what part of their budgets can be reduced and by how much. The city is trying to make reductions without lay off of employees.

The Cloquet Public Library received an Accessibility Grant to put in automated sliding doors. Along with sliding doors, a new security gate will be installed as well as a self check machine.

Library use continues to grow, including use of the library’s wi-fi access.

The library hosted two focus group sessions of community leaders late in December as part of the strategic planning process. Community leaders felt it important for the library to offer internet access, programs to promote early literacy, homework help, and be the one stop place for community and civic information. We are using this information as part of the budget discussion with the city.

Fergus Falls Public Library – Walt Dunlap, Director
Fergus Falls Public Library has had to make a 3.88% ($30,915.00) reduction in its $757,146.00 calendar 2009
budget. An additional cut of 4.24% is anticipated for 2010. Sharp cuts in student worker hours along with “overhead” cost savings and modest material reductions make the mandate possible.

On the “up” side, Reference USA and NoveList electronic databases are scheduled for this month with funding help from the Minnesota Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library and the support of the Viking Library System. Grants from the Otto Bremer Foundation, West Central Initiative and Wal-Mart have helped to initiate a “graphic novel” section for teens and an update of topical book bags for day care providers.

The City Council has not given up on expanding its Public Library, nor has the library community, but with a new Mayor and three new Council members there is some teaching to be done. The Council will convene a fact-finding meeting at the Library March 5th.

The Library Friends and Library Board contemplate the creation of a foundation to raise funds for the furnishing and stocking the expanded building. Consultant Ron McGriff of Braham did the initial “space needs assessment” for this 12,700 square foot Library back in 1998!

**Hibbing Public Library –Ginny Richmond, Director**

The loss of two full-time library staff during the past two months due to transfers and in anticipation of continued cuts to the city budget has caused a decrease in weekly staff hours. The Library Board has determined that eliminating Saturday hours is the least disruptive to patrons, while at the same time providing energy savings by being closed two days in a row. Eliminating Saturday hours will also simplify scheduling since the library is already closed on Saturdays in the summer.

The library will also cease providing public meeting room space to groups and individuals.

There will be an interview with Hibbing Daily Tribune to provide a more public version of the news. The change of hours (closing Saturdays starting March 14) will also be announced in the weekly library column that appears in the Sunday TV section.

**Northfield Public Library –Lynne Young, Director**

There could be 10-15% in budget cuts. Not knowing what the state is going to do, different methods of service delivery and looking for efficiencies and possible new revenue streams are being deliberated. Significant cuts in hours and staffing are expected and there is concern about meeting maintenance of effort.

The 2nd mini-golf tournament will be held. The St. Olaf library started this several years ago and the library borrows some equipment from them. The Teen Board designs and makes nine different "holes" around the library. They make money by selling hold sponsorships and charging a small admission fee. There is also a "driving range" set up in the meeting room. It was a lot of fun last year. Turnout should be good this year as people look for inexpensive in-town opportunities.

The Board and Library Director are working on an RFP for a fund-raising consultant to determine the potential for raising money for a capital project. It will be submitted to the Council in the next couple of months.

**Rochester Public Library –Audrey Betcher, Director**

Budget is always under discussion. Purchases are being held back until more is known from the legislature. Open positions are currently not being filled.

Continuous Improvement methods are being used to streamline processes for better services for the public. Library processes being examined are shelving, new item processing, and brochure creation.

There is a marked increase in the demand for the internet and word processing computers for job hunting. The library is working in partnership with the local United Way to provide more computer time for job seekers with trained volunteer help. (Library provides the computers, meeting room space, and publicity; United Way is providing the volunteers.) The local Workforce Center has also been contacted. The times in the library will be when the Workforce Center is closed. The pilot project will begin later in March.
Over 14,600 volunteer hours were logged in 2008. That was an 8% increase over 2007.

The library continues to get busier. Library circulation in December 2008 was 18% higher than circulation in December 2007.

Submitted by Mary Lukkarila, Public Libraries Representative

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Private Colleges Report
Dan Gjelten, University of St. Thomas
March 6, 2009

Bethany Lutheran College - Orrin Ausen, Library Director
“To no surprise, budgets are on everyone’s minds this year. Administration has asked to reduce current year budget twice.

We are in the process of a version upgrade to Aleph 19. Going through a number of webinar training sessions and testing data.

Working with vendors setting up link resolver software (OCLC Link Manager).

Will be attending ACRL in Seattle coming up in March.

Working on creating inventory reports and finalizing 2009-2010 budget.”

Concordia University -- Charlotte Knoche, Library Director
“Budgets are always a concern - and we'd like the legislature to remember how wise it is for them to invest in education, $$ for privates and publics, libraries, student aid, etc. Minnesota has always benefited hugely from its investment in education.

The students in the newly launched program in the food industry (the collaborative between CSP, UST, and the U of MN) are excellent students and very enthusiastic.”

University of St. Thomas -- Dan Gjelten, Library Director
The Collection Management and Services staff of the UST Libraries attended the R2 Consulting presentation on workflow analysis and have begun to identify a range of functions that might be reconsidered.

The Libraries are leading a project which is testing the streaming of audio and video content campuswide. (Early and unsurprising findings: while the audio streaming is but a blip in the overall bandwidth, video content will increasingly stretch the capacity of the network, especially as academic content competes with entertainment.)

Building plans on the UST campus are affecting the libraries, which will be hosting a number of campus staff who have been displaced during construction.

LibQual results from our fall survey are being analyzed and publicized in a number of ways. Our findings seem to be consistent with those of others who have conducted the survey: students value the library as place, but place less importance on service from library staff than we’d like; faculty want more content and everyone wants a website that makes it easy to discover valuable content. Our results regarding satisfaction are very high, but as we drill into the data, we are finding lots of potential for new goals and plans for the libraries.

CLIC -- Dan Gjelten
The CLIC Executive Director search committee is proceeding with its work and has a number of applicants. We anticipate conducting interviews in March.
Recent Programs and Projects

Budget Reduction Planning - All units at the University of Minnesota have been asked to model 5% and 8% recurring budget reductions to begin FY10. The Libraries’ process is reviewing all areas for potential reductions. In addition to explicit cuts, we are modeling how the Libraries would handle the anticipated 7% inflation on our collection commitments (~$975,000) without increased support.

2009 ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award - The University of Minnesota – Twin Cities Libraries has been selected by the American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries to receive the 2009 ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of the Libraries’ staff “as they come together as members of a team to support the mission of their institution.” This is a wonderful tribute to the creativity, dedication, and excellent service that our staff provide to campus. The award will be presented at a campus celebration during spring 2009. UMN’s nomination can be found at: https://wiki.lib.umn.edu/wupl/Staff.HomePage/2009%20ACRL%20Award%20Application.pdf

Health Sciences Libraries to Partner with Community in Health Literacy Programming - The Health Sciences Libraries in partnership with the Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership and Boutwells Landing Senior Living Community in Oak Park Heights, MN, have been awarded a $40,000 subcontract from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region. The subcontract project entitled, "Health Literacy Program for Minnesota Seniors (HeLP MN Seniors)" will be used to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate a Health Literacy training program for seniors. The 24 month project begins in April 2009 and continues through March 2011.

InfoNOW to be launched in April 2009 - The University Libraries will be launching a re-branded fee-based document delivery and research service called InfoNOW in April 2009. We are consolidating our Bio-Medical Information Services (BIS) and ESTIS operations to provide a single point of service using a new technology platform that provides a user-friendly interface and one-stop service for entering and tracking orders online. Corporate clients include law firms, medical and technology companies, marketing companies, and individuals both within Minnesota and nation-wide. Referrals from public libraries for requests that go beyond your services are welcomed. For more information, contact Linda Watson, HSL Library Director at lwatson@umn.edu.

Copyright and Issues of Scholarly Communication - The University Libraries invited Dr. Kenneth Crews, Director of the Copyright Advisory Office at Columbia University, to give a workshop for faculty, staff, and students called “Who Owns Your Scholarship? Copyright, Publication Agreements, and Good Policy.” The workshop was attended by ~200 faculty, staff, and students. Additional publishing and copyright resources are available on the Libraries’ Transforming Scholarly Communications web page.

The University Libraries will be launching a new Copyright and Publishing Resources Center and is searching for a center director.

Productivity Tools

Library Pages for Every Course - Currently the Libraries offers a service called CourseLib where a librarian works with an instructor to customize a web page for the course. In contrast, this new project (in alpha development) would allow the Libraries to automatically generate a web page specific to every course at the University. Instructors would not have to request that a specific page be generated; instead it would be automatically available. Access it here: http://www.lib.umn.edu/libdata/rest/course.php?coursesub=MATH&course_num=1001
Mobile Library - This is a new interface for people accessing the Libraries through their mobile devices. Check it out as it looks on a mobile device: Mobile Library PPT. Use it here: http://www.lib.umn.edu/mobile/

The Assignment Calculator Beta - The Assignment Calculator is a tool that breaks down research and writing projects into manageable steps based on the due date. The Calculator provides students with reasonable deadlines, specific instructions, and guidance for each step of an assignment. Students can sign up to get email reminders for each step to keep them on track. The Assignment Calculator is currently in beta development. Access it here - https://tools.lib.umn.edu/ac/

Upcoming Events - http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events
Robert Bly in This World
What: A creative academic conference to celebrate poet Robert Bly's career and influence in poetry, translation, political protest, the Men's Movement, and cultural transformation
Where: University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Andersen Library and Willey Hall
When: Thursday, April 16—Sunday, April 19, 2009
Registration and event information available here: http://staff.lib.umn.edu/communications/bly2009/.

April 23, 2009: Ntozake Shange - Ntozake Shange is author of the play For colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf: a choreopoem, which won an Obie and was nominated for Tony, Grammy, and Emmy awards. Shange has also published four novels including Pen-Faulkner nominee Indigo. Her poetry collections include: A Daughter’s Geography, Nappy Edges, Ridin the Moon in Texas, and The Space Love Demands. Sponsored by the Givens Foundation for African American Literature and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries

Submitted by Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota, TC Representative

Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Report
Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network
March 6, 2008

Metronet – St Paul - Ann Walker Smalley, Director
Activities and Programs - 349 people have registered for More Things On a Stick. Participants have until May 20, 2009 to complete the program. Metronet has implemented a high school version of 23 in collaboration with the media specialist at Minnehaha Academy.

The multitypes hosted an Internet Café with free wi-fi and coffee at MEMO. It was a very popular meeting. Metronet has initiated an Early Career Interest Group for library staff in the region and beyond. The group has met informally and is planning programs for future meetings.

Transformation from Within: Creating a 21st Century Learning Commons is the theme for the third Metronet Information Literacy Conference. It will be held at University of Minnesota Conference Center. It is open to all, but principals of secondary schools may bring their media specialist for free—2 for one registration.

Ann Walker Smalley, Metronet Director and Ruth Solie presented as part of a panel on successful 23 Things programs. The Webinar was sponsored by MaintainIT and WebJunction.

SMILE -- Mankato - Nancy Steele, Director
SMILE is planning for its annual meeting in April. Julie Kramer who is nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and for the Mary Higgins Clark Award from the Mystery Writers of America will be the author speaking. The date is Tuesday evening, April 14, 2009 and it will be held at Bethany College, Meyer Hall Room 101. A silent auction before the program will raise funds for the Fran McDonald Memorial at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
The Readers Advisory group is also meeting in March and the American Sign Language Storytimes continue through May.

SMILE is encouraging participation on the More Things on a Stick Project.

The administrative assistant has resigned as of the end of February and a temporary replacement has been found. Some changes are projected this summer. The hiring of a permanent replacement will be done by the new administrator as Steele will be retiring June 30, 2009. This will allow for innovative changes and more cooperation with Traverse des Sioux.

Central MN Libraries Exchange (CMLE), St Cloud - Patricia Post, Director
New NASA Collaboration - With Minnesota’s renewed focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), this new free materials offer is an especially exciting piece of news for Central Minnesota. CMLE is happy to announce its new partnership with the NASA Educator Resource Center at St. Cloud State University. Yes, the NASA we are talking about is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration program, who produce some beautiful educational resources. SCSU is one of 70 such centers, and receives teacher guides, booklets, posters, CD’s, stickers, curriculum, and even seed packets! These materials focus on science, mathematics, geography, technology instruction, biology, physics, earth science, exploration and space science. Materials are just shipped, and we only get what is shipped, but recently we offered over 2,000 items at no cost. Recently, CMLE sent out an annotated list of over 40 titles to our CMLE members, with easy instructions to order. There is no charge for the materials, and CMLE uses its current delivery services to get the materials out to our member libraries. Over 1,000 materials were ordered from 25 sites. This partnership that supports the STEM initiative, further demonstrates some of the bonuses and efficiencies CMLE enjoys through its continued decision to reside and be a part of St. Cloud State University.

North Star Library Consortium - Patricia Post continues to work with Ruth Solie to offer the North Star Library Consortium pricing, training and support to schools who have need and/or interest in joining a hosted library software solution. CMLE, Northern Lights, and Region 1 continue to add additional support to Consortium activities through the assistance of an E2T2 grant. Four CMLE schools joined the Consortium in December. See the Northern Lights report for more detail on recent Consortium activities.

Central MN History Day at SCSU - Middle and high schools students descended upon SCSU’s Miller Center on January 31st with enthusiasm and excitement for our first offering of this event. The day was modeled after similar events offered in the Twin Cities and involved SCSU librarians and History Day staff from St. Cloud State University. CMLE staff coordinated with media specialists in the registered schools to secure the use of the schools SCSU barcode for checkout of SCSU materials, or to place interlibrary loan orders. Students were introduced to all of SCSU’s online resources, including Minnesota Reflections, got a tour of the library, and received tips on doing history day research. History Day staff did one-on-one sessions with students narrowing their topic and providing tips on how to present their information. CMLE and SCSU plan on making this an annual event, so students have improved regional access to the same resources and expertise as students in the metro region.

Other Activities - Distribution of 5,000 MN Digital Library bookmarks to CMLE member libraries. Continued weekly distribution of Spanish newspapers to 31 member libraries (weekly total of 185).

More Things on a Stick program participants are “off” and doing well learning Web 2.0.

March upgrade to Version 19 of Aleph software to support our ILL services.

Facilitated 2,326 interlibrary loans since July 2008.

Focus on internal infrastructure with an audit of systems, software, and staffing.

Northern Lights Library Network, Detroit Lakes - Ruth Solie, Director
The North Star Library Consortium has begun accepting new members from across the entire state of Minnesota. School districts in the NLLN, CMLE, SAMMIE, and SMILE regions are part of, or in the process of
joining, the Consortium. We currently have 126 libraries from 56 districts participating in this cost-effective, centrally hosted, library management system. Follett’s *Destiny* software is the library management software that is used by the Consortium. The *Destiny* software is hosted at Region 1 in Moorhead.

NLLN and CMLE provided a January workshop for school media center staff that included a Sunday evening featuring “Games and Gadgets” and a Monday workshop focused on using the *Destiny* library management system. 52 people attended.

Registrations and final preparations are being made for the Spotlight on Books Conference to be held April 3-4, 2009. This conference focuses on youth literature and will be particularly geared toward keeping kids, especially boys, reading as they become tweens and teens. More information is available at [http://nlln.org/spotlight.html](http://nlln.org/spotlight.html).

We have 52 registered participants in the *More Things on a Stick* program. It is going well and this year’s participants exhibit considerably more confidence in approaching new Web 2.0 tools – it’s fun to see the benefits of this project spread into unexpected areas of participants’ personal and professional life.

Ann Walker Smalley and I participated in a national/international webinar about running successful 23 Things Library Learning projects. The interest in the topic was incredible with over 300 people registered. It was a great opportunity to share and to learn. Many “modes” of communication were employed in addition to the webconferencing, including a Twitter stream, live chat, VOIP, and blog updates.

**Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange [SAMMIE] - Robin Chaney, Director**

SAMMIE’s support for Teen Services through the Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Partnership will include Training for staff working with Teens; Teen Resource Grants; Region wide planning for Teen Programming; Assisting libraries in establishing Teen Advisory groups.

The Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Partnership is beginning a planning process to support Adult programming in the Region’s libraries.

**SELCO/SELS – Rochester - Michael Scott**

Special Consultants Program Up and Running - The “Connecting Young Adults and Libraries” workshop on January 27 launched the second SELCO Special Consultants’ topic. As the primary focus of the new strategic plan, SELCO will contract with specialists to work with public libraries in four areas: PR & Marketing, Early Literacy, YA Programming, and creating inviting library spaces. For more information: [http://www.selco.info/programs-services/special-consultants](http://www.selco.info/programs-services/special-consultants).

Chatfield Brass Band and Music Lending Library & Smart Investing Grant Projects - With a loan of student help from CBBMLL, an additional 18 boxes of sheet music were sorted during the holiday break. Original cataloging continues with titles being added to both the SELCO and OCLC databases. Less than 5% of the nearly 12,000 records created to date were previously available through OCLC.

The second phase of the Smart Investing @ your library project with programs hosted in local libraries started February 5. Grant funds will cover the cost to have four credentialed speakers present in 12 locations. Each SELCO library is also eligible for a small selection of financial resource materials.

**Connectivity** - The positive response to SELCO’s online meeting option is growing. Using GoToMeeting, library staff and board members can participate in any meeting while avoiding bad weather driving conditions and eliminating windshield time. The Personnel Committee, a sub-committee of the SELCO/SELS Board of Directors, was the first group to meet entirely online. SELCO staff managed the technology from the SELCO building and committee members logged on from Winona, Spring Valley, Spring Grove, Caledonia, and Austin.

**Personnel Update** - Mike Perry joined the staff on January 4 in the position of Web Development Specialist. Mike will be actively involved with the creation of the new SELCO – AquaBrowser online catalog.

**Technology On the Move** - At the January 14 Technology User Group, Donovan Lambright, Automation Librarian, shared a full morning of information with Online Library staff. His nuts-n-bolts workshop topics
describing our new SELCO – AquaBrowser catalog are available online in their entirety and summaries can be found on the SELCO Librarian blog, http://www.selco.info/news/blogs/selco-librarian.

With the closing of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, SELCO effectively masked the college holdings and cooperated with library staff to recover loans and retrieve grant purchased equipment. As directed by the Board, any library withdrawing from the consortium is responsible for the costs incurred and Pillsbury has been invoiced for these expenses.

The first episode of SELCOtv was posted on January 26, with a taped interview between Donovan Lambright and Mollie Pherson, Regional Librarian, describing the exciting options for using the Techie Toyboxes. http://selcotv.blip.tv/#1713664.

**FY 2010 Possible Grant Projects**
- SELCO/SELS submitted five LSTA Letters of Intent and received notification that four are “appropriate fundable projects within the LSTA State Five-Year Plan: 2008-2012.”

SELCO will move forward and create grant applications for the following projects:
- Community Libraries as Online Partners: Music Backlog
- Serving Teens and Tweens @ Your Library
- Community Libraries as Online Partners: Lonsdale

Submitted by Ruth Solie, Director, Northern Lights Library Network

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**Regional System Libraries Report**
Chris Olson, Director, Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)
March 6, 2009

**East Central Regional Library - Barbara Misselt, Director**

Location Changes for Two GRRL Libraries - The new Big Lake Public Library location opened on January 16. It is located at 790 Minnesota Avenue, two blocks east of Highway 10 and right across the street from an elementary school. The new location is 7,000 sq. ft., including a separate programming space. There is a sizeable parking lot there should be no more parking headaches!

The new Pierz Public Library location opened on December 26. It is located at 117 Main St., right in the middle of town. The library has a sizeable children's area, an additional Internet station, a teen space, and plenty of additional shelving so that the library's collection can expand. The new location is 3,200 sq. ft., more than three times the size of the previous one. In earlier days the building was home to The Star, a 300 seat, one-screen cinema.

St. Michael and Staples Receive Building Grants - Proposals from St. Michael and Staples for Public Library Accessibility and Construction grants were approved by Minnesota Department of Education. St. Michael will receive a matching grant of $400,000, and Staples will receive a matching grant of $420,000. The St. Michael project is part of a combination private and public land development. The Staples project is for a municipal building including City Hall and the library.

Fundraising Matching Grant Available for 2009 - The Library Plus You fundraising campaign in St. Cloud continues to reap benefits. The Morgan Family Foundation has stepped forward with a matching grant so that the public can support additional collection items by making a donation to the library. For every $1 donated, the Morgan Family Foundation will donate another $1, up to $100,000, to help GRRL keep up with emerging learning needs for its growing population. The Library Plus You fundraising campaign has so far raised almost $800,000 in gifts and pledges to enhance collections, computers, and other technology.

**Lake Agassiz Regional Library - Kathy Fredette, Director**

Strategic Planning - Our 2009-2011 Strategic Plan has been adopted by the Board and can be found on our website at http://larl.org/about/strategic_plan.html
Teen Read Week - Three Moorhead graduates of the 23 Things project worked with Youth Services on a Teen Read Week project. Library Associates created a wiki which could be accessed by teens across the region. The wiki explained a region-wide contest and encouraged teens to submit scary stories which were then added to the wiki. Thirty-one entries were received and prizes awarded on Halloween. The site can be accessed at http://bookswithbite.pbwiki.com/

Web Catalog Upgrade - Thanks to Automation Services staff, LARL/NWRL went ‘live’ with a new web catalog look and interface on Nov. 25th. Some of the new features are:

- Forgot Your Pin Number? On the My Account login screen, customers can click on the "forgot your pin" button that will allow them to reset their pin. This does require that they have a valid email address in their customer account.
- Patron Rating - Customers can rate materials on a 1-5 star scale.
- Updated Navigation and Look – We’re using the latest recommended look and feel from III, which is designed with newer web browsers in mind.

Reviewing our Shared Automation System - A senior trainer from III (Innovative Interfaces, Inc.) visited the first week of December with both LARL and NWRL staff and submitted a report outlining what we might do to maximize both staff time and the III Millennium system. This was a very helpful exercise, particularly for our Automation and Collection Development staff “who have been working with Millennium long enough to be expert on your own procedures, and to understand many of the nuances of the Millennium system, which means that the discussion of how to be more productive is less about matching the processes of your previous (DRA) system, and more about making the best use possible of the system that you now have (Millennium).” I found that sentence key to the entire report. LARL will be incorporating the recommendations that relate to our region into the Strategic Plan Focus Area that calls for “maximizing technology”.

Building - The City of Bagley and the Clearwater Library Foundation submitted a grant proposal for the Public Library Accessibility and Construction matching grant program to build a new and expanded Bagley Public Library but did not receive a grant. I think this was in part for not involving the community in the planning process, for not communicating with the Regional Library Director about plans, and due to the fact Clearwater County has not met the state minimum (now) for two years in a row.

Both the Detroit Lakes and Moorhead Libraries are looking at current building improvements rather than new buildings. In both cases, projected costs were far too high for the current economic environment (approx. $17M for a new library in Moorhead and $11M in DL - not including parking and land acquisition). The Detroit Lakes Library is going to get new carpeting and look for ways to update and maximize their existing space. The Moorhead Library is converting a former staff work area into additional public computer space (20 new computers/workstations), roof work, interior painting, and other interior space redesign.

Hot Reads - Library customers are invited to snuggle up with a few good books this winter and participate in our adult winter reading program - Hot Reads for Cold Nights! Those who read four books or audiobooks can enter for a chance to win ‘hot’ prizes. The program runs January 5th through March 13th at all branches and LINK Sites.

The Fosston Library is hosting their 7th annual community read event, Fosston Reads Together, using the book Code Black by Philip Donlay. A Grand Finale event with the author will be held March 15th in Fosston.

1,000,000 Circ - Open Houses were held at all branches and LINK Sites in January and early February to thank all the customers who helped us reach the momentous goal of 1 million items checked out in a year (reached December 12, 2008).

Pioneerland Library System - John Houlahan, Director
Hutchinson Public Library hosted a program titled "Minnovation: What do RollerBlades, Scotch tape and pop-up toasters have in common?" Guest speakers were Minnesota Historical Society historian Andy Wilhide and Scott Olson, the inventor of RollerBlades. Wilhide gave an overview of Minnesota inventions over the past 150 years, with examples of everything from Totino’s Frozen Pizza to the game of Twister. Scott Olson shared his
experiences as an inventor and outlined several of his new projects currently underway. This fun, informative evening was funded by the local Friends of the Library.

MELSA -Chris Olson, Director

Homework Help RFP Re-Issued -MELSA re-issued its Request for Proposals for an online homework help program on January 17. We will review proposals this spring, begin negotiations and sign a contract after July 1, 2009. The program will go live beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

Discovery Tool Project Moves Forward -AquaBrowser installations will soon begin for libraries in Saint Paul along with Dakota and Ramsey Counties. The other four participating libraries will begin implementations in March. (Hennepin County is not participating in this part of the project.) In addition, MELSA has purchased 360 Search (federated searching from Serials Solutions) as part of the project and will also tie in a subscription to Novelist Plus for online reader’s advisory purposes.

Quiet On The Set: Metro Public Libraries Short Film Competition -This film contest will be offered through MELSA and 50/50 Films. This initiative will inspire a minimum of 30 short films (one- to five-minutes in length) that highlight metro public libraries, library staff, and library users. Top films will be featured via Comcast On-Demand (reaching 500,000 Twin Cities residents), posted on YouTube, and streamed on library and filmmaking websites. There will also be a red carpet film festival featuring these films at a local theater in July 2009, to be followed by library screenings.

SELCO -Ann Hutton, Director

Special Consultants Program Up and Running -The “Connecting Young Adults and Libraries” workshop on January 27 launched the second SELCO Special Consultants’ topic. As the primary focus of the new strategic plan, SELCO will contract with specialists to work with public libraries in four areas: PR & Marketing, Early Literacy, YA Programming, and creating inviting library spaces. For more information:

http://www.selco.info/programs-services/special-consultants.

Chatfield Brass Band and Music Lending Library & Smart Investing Grant Projects -With a loan of student help from CBBMLL, an additional 18 boxes of sheet music were sorted during the holiday break. Original cataloging continues with titles being added to both the SELCO and OCLC databases. Less than 5% of the nearly 12,000 records created to date were previously available through OCLC.

Connectivity -The positive response to SELCO’s online meeting option is growing. Using GoToMeeting, library staff and board members can participate in any meeting while avoiding bad weather driving conditions and eliminating windshield time. The Personnel Committee, a sub-committee of the SELCO/SELS Board of Directors, was the first group to meet entirely online. SELCO staff managed the technology from the SELCO building and committee members logged on from Winona, Spring Valle, Spring Grove, Caledonia, and Austin.

Personnel Update -Mike Perry joined the staff on January 4 in the position of Web Development Specialist. Mike will be actively involved with the creation of the new SELCO – AquaBrowser online catalog.

Technology On the Move -At the January 14 Technology User Group, Donovan Lambright, Automation Librarian, shared a full morning of information with Online Library staff. His nuts-n-bolts workshop topics describing our new SELCO – AquaBrowser catalog are available online in their entirety and summaries can be found on the SELCO Librarian blog, http://www.selco.info/news/blogs/selco-librarian.

With the closing of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, SELCO effectively masked the college holdings and cooperated with library staff to recover loans and retrieve grant purchased equipment. As directed by the Board, any library withdrawing from the consortium is responsible for the costs incurred and Pillsbury has been invoiced for these expenses.
The first episode of SELCOtv was posted on January 26, with a taped interview between Donovan Lambright and Mollie Pherson, Regional Librarian, describing the exciting options for using the Techie Toyboxes. [http://selcotv.blip.tv/#1713664](http://selcotv.blip.tv/#1713664).

**FY 2010 Possible Grant Projects** - SELCO/SELS submitted five LSTA Letters of Intent and received notification that four are “appropriate fundable projects within the LSTA State Five-Year Plan: 2008-2012.”

SELCO will move forward and create grant applications for the following projects:

- Community Libraries as Online Partners: Music Backlog
- Serving Teens and Tweens @ Your Library
- Community Libraries as Online Partners: Lonsdale

**Traverse Des Sioux Library System -Patty Biesterfeld, Interim Director**

**Personnel** - The 5th search for a new TdS Director is now in progress. The job ad for a joint TdS and SMILE Director was sent out nationally on January 2. As of January 27, TdS has received eight applications. We hope to have interviews scheduled in early March. The TdS and SMILE Board created a new search committee consisting of two board members, three staff members (including the SMILE Director), two public library directors and the chair of the SMILE Advisory Committee. The makeup of the Search Committee has come under some criticism by some members of the SMILE Advisory Committee for being too “public library” oriented. The fun begins.

A proposed governance structure and draft by-laws have been developed by the Merge Committee and will be a beginning point for the new director when ready.

The Cataloging Associate hired last January interviewed and was hired as the ILL Associate in September. We did not replace the full-time Cataloging Associate position but reviewed and reorganized other staff positions. The Board recently approved another half-time position in ILL and Delivery and those additional hours could be given to the part-time Courier Sorter already on staff as he has some ILL experience and he has applied. Even with some of the ILL procedures being more streamlined with NCIP, the volume continues to grow.

**Automation** - TdS will be renewing a one year contract with Sirsi/Dynix in February. We hope that response from a new sales rep. living in Minnesota will be more positive and will increase our satisfaction with the company.

Jeanne DeMars, Automation Coordinator, and Dani Kroon, Technical Services Librarian, will both be attending the Sirsi/Dynix SuperConference in Dallas in April. Jeanne will be presenting at the “Implementing NCIP with VDX” session.

**Viking Library System -Peg Werner, Director**

**Electronic Databases** - After testing eleven electronic databases last fall, the member library directors decided to stay with Ancestry and to add NoveList Plus and Reference USA. Not all libraries offer every database – patrons are screened remotely by the code indicating the library at which they received their card.

**Local Training** - During my meetings with local library boards this summer, Director Peg Werner presented a primer on minimum levels of support/maintenance of effort along with their individual budget figures and the possible consequences of losing maintenance of effort for the cities.

Submitted by Chris Olson, Regional System Libraries Representative
University of Minnesota, Duluth Report  -Bill Sozansky, Library Director
UMD Library has been given a reduction target of 7.66% for the upcoming biennium that translates to a $266,000 cut in recurring monies. We are planning to take half of the reduction in staffing and the other half from our materials budget.

While we are losing two librarian positions, I’m happy to report that we did get to hire one new librarian, Sarah Beaubien. Sarah comes to us from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and joined our reference team on March 2nd. In addition to working in reference, Sarah will be coordinating our instruction program.

2008-09 was the second year of the UMD Library Student Video Contest where students submitted videos that were set in the library or about the library. Students competed for prizes by demonstrating their artistry as cinematic auteurs, and now we get to show off their work and show off our fine institution. The following link leads to the entries from the past two years of the video contest:
http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/videocontest/winners.htm

University of Minnesota, Crookston Library Report  -Owen Williams, Library Director
The UMC Library is in the process of selecting titles for a diversity grant (IDEA) from the University of Minnesota Office of Equity and Diversity. The library is adding titles to the children's book collection of the library with a focus on diversity.

Library staff is in the process of doing a critical analysis of the database collection at the UMC Library.

University of Minnesota, Morris Report  -LeAnn Dean, Library Director
Briggs Library has purchased a license for EndNote and is currently presenting both demonstration sessions and workshops for students, staff and faculty who are interested in using this bibliographic management product. We are also adding more archival and photo content to our UMM Digital Collections, using ContentDM software. The Briggs Library Associates (friends of the library group) recently announced the availability of collection enhancement grants whereby students, faculty or staff make a case for adding specific titles around a central topic. The applications will be judged on stated criteria, with the winners honored at the organization’s annual meeting and by bookplates inserted in the items purchased. Library student assistants are planning the second annual lock-in where the library remains open from Friday night through Saturday morning with games, food, movies and quiet corners for those who still want to study. A faculty member is continuing her annual tradition of donating $500 to the library for the purchase of DVDs of current and popular movies. This complements the Best Seller and Favorite Picks collection in providing recreational reading and viewing for students.

Submitted by Bill Sozansky, University of Minnesota, Coordinate Campus Representative

State Government Libraries Report
Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library
March 6, 2009

More Things on a Stick  -Ten CALCO librarians are participating in “More Things on a Stick.” We have our own group on the 23Things NING and are quickly realizing what a huge chunk of time social networking and learning new Things can consume. On a more positive note, we’re shedding any Luddite notions and our kids are razzing us about blogging (we think they’re jealous).

Attorney General Library – Anita Anderson, Law Librarian
The A.G. Library received a large shipment of official Minnesota Statutes sets in mid-December. Unfortunately, three of the statute volumes had errata sheets with legislation that didn’t make it into the printed books. We recruited volunteers and set up an assembly line to paste the sheets in the appropriate volumes. It took the better part of two days, but all of the sets were updated with the painstaking assistance of our support staff volunteers. The experience brought new meaning to “book processing.”
**Dept. of Employment & Economic Development Library (DEED) – Dru Frykberg, Senior Librarian**

Pat Fenton, a senior librarian at DEED, retired Jan. 21 after nearly 33 years of working in state government libraries. There are no immediate plans to fill her position. Dru Frykberg will work as a solo librarian for now.

The DEED Library offered a "Get Search Savvy" session on international business research for staff. The class showcased library resources such as EIU.com, Global Road Warrior, American (Minnesota) Firms Operating in Foreign Countries, and Kompass.

**Dept. of Natural Resources Library – Jo Ann Musumeci, Senior Librarian**

An invitation for you to provide advice on small library and collaboration work space design. The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Library (DNR Library) is planning to reconfigure the library space to accommodate both individual research needs and team needs for collaboration, learning, innovation and productivity (CLIP). The timing is perfect, since the library is in a temporary location while the original space is re-carpeted. We can start with the empty space which has a smaller kind of entry or foyer room that had been used for the staff workstations, 27’ x 17’. This entry space opens into what was the area which held the stacks, periodical shelves and study carrels, 29’ x 40’, with windows on two sides. This larger space includes an enclosed office space. Not a lot of space to work with – a total for both spaces of 1600 sq ft.

We expect the stacks to take up less space and have more open or specially-designed space for team/group work. I’m looking for how to place stacks in an inviting, non-traditional way. We have about 100 print journal titles and 8,000 volumes at this location, including the archives of the DNR publications.

I have been researching how to design work surfaces for collaboration, and I know there is research on how to design intranet sites and choose technology for collaboration. I invite anyone who has done collaboration, learning and/or library space design or is now doing it to contact me with your tips, do's and don'ts, and best practices (Joann.Musumeci@dnr.state.mn.us, 651-259-5483). If you have specific examples I can visit, that would be great.

**FIRE/EMS/Safety Center Library – Gwen Schagrin, Librarian**

One interesting thing being done at the Fire Center (not the library itself) concerns information sessions conducted by our group throughout the state on how to apply for the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Our group members who present these workshops quickly learned how to do webinars. They cut down on the amount of travel being done to make these presentations since travel budgets in the Office of the Chancellor were almost totally eliminated as part of the retrenchment.

**Legislative Reference Library – Robbie LaFleur, Director**

The legislative session is in full swing and staff members of the Legislative Reference Library are busy. Bills are being presented and many authors are contacting the Library in preparation for committee hearings on their bills. The Library has a housekeeping bill, HF801/SF799. The major effect has to do with the Library's document depository status; two (2) print copies and one electronic copy will be required instead of six print copies. The bill has passed the first House committee.

A new database of SONARs, Statements of Need and Reasonableness, has been released. Read more and try it out at: www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/sonar/sonar.asp.

This is the heavy season for state documents. Many mandated reports are due in the first two months of the year. So far in 2009, 328 state documents have arrived!

It's the fortieth anniversary for the Library. A great reception was held on January 21. The Library was jammed. Particularly rewarding was the number of former staff members who came to visit. You can see a few shots of the reception that day in a very cool video on the Library done by David Gillette from the "Almanac at the Capitol" show. See: http://snipurl.com/c7122

**Minnesota Historical Society – Kathryn Otto, Head of Reference**

The Minnesota Historical Society now has available on its website an index for the Minnesota State Census, 1849-1905 (http://www.mnhs.org/people/census). This is the same index and images currently available on
Ancestry.com but unlike Ancestry, MHS will be able to correct the index and even replace bad images. The index will work like the Minnesota Birth Certificates and Minnesota Death Certificates indexes, with drop-down menus for “exact,” “contains,” “starts with,” and “ends with” for both last and first names, Soundex and extended Soundex, and the ability to limit the search by year and county. The Society’s innovative WOTR (Write On The Record) comment feature will be usable on the census index. The census images can be purchased online, with electronic delivery within minutes, just like the birth certificate images.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, the Minnesota Historical Society has created a Lincoln Bicentennial webpage (http://www.mnhs.org/people/lincoln). It includes digital copies of items from the MHS collections, a timeline of events in Lincoln’s life, links to other Lincoln websites, and a list of Lincoln-related events that will be happening over the coming year, including a display of MHS collections items that will be in the lobby of the MHS Library until mid-April.

Speaking of timelines, the MHS Library has created a Minnesota History timeline that is now available on the Library’s main webpage (http://www.mnhs.org/library/ -- scroll down toward the bottom). MHS librarians used Dipity to create the timeline, which includes images from the library’s collections and links to other resources. You’ll want to bookmark this site as it will be added to over time. If you have suggestions for events to be added, contact the MHS Library at reference@mnhs.org.

A new exhibit — Minnesota on the Map: Four Centuries of Maps from the Minnesota Historical Society Collection — just opened on February 28. The exhibit features dozens of maps, atlases, and artifacts from the Society’s collection, including an atlas from 1595, displayed alongside current road, city, and tourist maps. The Society’s extensive collection of early exploration and travel maps of North America includes document maps and atlases used by Europeans to understand the geography of the “New World” and illustrates how that understanding changed over time. For more information visit the exhibit’s webpage (http://www.mnhs.org/mnmap/). If you’re a real map lover, you’ll want to take the library class “Minnesota on the Map: An Introduction to the MHS Map Collection” on March 10 (6:00-7:30 p.m.). Class participants will walk through the exhibit with Patrick Coleman, the Society’s map curator. The class will continue in the Library where other maps and cartographic resources not included in the exhibit will be viewed and their value in conducting historical research discussed. Register online to make sure you get a spot (http://shop.mnhs.org/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=2090&category=114).

Mn/DOT Library – Sheila Hatchell, Director

Mn/DOT Library is pleased to announce that Karen Neinstadt joined our staff on Feb. 9th as Reference and Outreach Librarian. Karen came to Mn/DOT by way of the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Karen will be doing reference work, and marketing the library Mn/DOT staff and local transportation officials through presentations and hosting booths at conferences. Karen earned her Bachelor of Arts degree (English Literature/Creative Writing, Spanish, and Music Performance) from Southwest Minnesota State University at Marshall, and her Master of Library and Information Science from the joint program with Dominican University, River Forest, IL and the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN. We welcome her are and happy to have her with us.

Minnesota State Law Library – Daniel Lunde, Head of Outreach Services

Ask a Law Librarian in 2008 -Email questions submitted to “Ask a Law Librarian” are a quantifiable subset of the services provided by the Law Library. In CY2008, there were 16.6% more questions sent to “Ask a Law Librarian” than in CY2007. About a third of the queries are referrals from the Court website; 31.7% in CY2008, down slightly from CY2007 (32.7%). In both years, two-thirds of the questions came from the general public (non-attorneys).

An analysis of the CY2008 queries from non-attorneys mirrors the difficult times that people are currently encountering. There were more questions on state and federal court procedures in all courts starting at conciliation court up through the highest appellate courts. Questions about forms dominated. Library staff appreciates the information available on the virtual Self-Help Center, as well as the options to refer patrons to courthouse terminals connected to the SHC and contacting SHC. Criminal expungement requests also increased and many people stated they sought expungement because of problems retaining jobs, obtaining housing, etc. There were more debtor/creditor questions as people struggled with paying bills, handling foreclosures, and
dealing with bankruptcies. More employment issues included questions about layoffs, reductions in pay, and involuntary leaves. It should be noted that family law issues continue to be the most asked subject area, but there was not a significant increase from CY2007 to CY2008.

When possible, the library posts canned responses on our Frequently Asked Questions page at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/askfaq.html. This is the third most visited page on our website. This quarter we added FAQs on mortgage foreclosure and starting a business. Anna Cherry is primarily responsible for creating our FAQs.

Website Statistics for 2008 - The Library website is our most visible service to the world, available 24/7. Last year it logged 2,415,218 successful hits, averaging 6,598 per day. The top five destinations were:

1. The Library homepage at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/
2. The entry to the opinion archive at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/archive/
4. Internet Legal Resources at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/mnlr.html
5. County and Municipal Ordinances at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/ordinance.html

Good to Know - Expressions of gratitude are always welcome, but in tough times, they are even more appreciated. As a morale booster, we have posted some of our kudos on our website at http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/users.html.

The Minnesota State Law Library, primary law library for state government, is cost-efficient. The American Lawyer's 2008 law library survey of the top 200 firms reported an average library budget at $5,899,610 and the median at $3,804,055. In contrast, the State Law Library provides comparable services for a mere $2,145,000.

Also of Note - There is now a Wikipedia entry for the Minnesota State Law Library at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota_State_Law_Library. Dennis Skrade is the primary author.

Perpich Center for Arts Education (PCAE) Library – Jeanne Iverson, Director
The Perpich Center for Arts Education Library was part of a showcased event at the state capitol on February 9 for the first ever Perpich Day at the Capitol. At this event, students performed and Perpich Center staff shared information about the ways that the Perpich Center serves Minnesotans through its work as a state agency to improve and enrich arts education for students and teachers throughout Minnesota. Performing students were featured on the cover of the February 13 issue of Session Weekly.

The Perpich Center Library's unique arts education materials as well as a growing multicultural education collection are available via inter-library loan through MINITEX and through individual patron check out using the MnPALS system. Library web site: www.pcae.k12.mn.us/lib/lib.html.

Submitted by Karla Gedell, State Government Libraries Representative
On a bright note, in January and February the Metro Libraries working through MELSA conducted their first adult winter reading program, “Winter Jackets,” which was modeled on the successful adult winter reading program at SELCO. Reports on activities are being collected by MELSA with a summary report to be given to members soon. Since demand is growing for library services in the tight economy, it is also good to report that one new library branch opened in Rosemount and one is preparing to close for extensive remodeling and expansion in Roseville.

On a darker note, Metro Library Directors met on Friday, February 27, in an informal gathering to discuss “things.” The topic that dominated the discussion, to no one’s surprise, was coping with reductions in local budgets. As with most other libraries and government agencies, “stress” was the main theme. Most libraries are preparing for at least a 5% reduction in property tax revenues as a result of anticipated state property tax aid reductions. Some libraries, notably St. Paul and Hennepin County, are seeing much larger reductions being asked of them by their local administrations.

Revenue losses are also being seen in non-levy revenues, such as interest earnings, and in the libraries that charge daily overdue fines, it appears those revenues are also down. As has been heavily reported in various media outlets, this all comes when demand for library services has increased.

Some of the metro libraries are reducing service hours as one way to address anticipated revenue losses. All libraries are holding vacant positions open until further notice as another tactic. Hiring freezes are the norm. Some libraries are raising revenues by increasing fees for service or by changing policies. At this point only one system is considering closing a library branch.

**Anoka County Library System** - Marlene Moulton Janssen, Director

**Budget News** - Anoka County Library, just like every other library, is struggling with its 2009 budget and plans for 2010. Initial scenarios to achieve 5.6% cost savings were approved by the Library Board and presented to the County Commissioners for their information. In light of the depth of reductions presented and Anoka County's current sound financial position, the amount of cost savings required of the Library will be reduced. Final figures are still pending. At this time, it appears that open hours will be reduced starting this summer but no branches will be closed.

**Tweet, Tweet** - Anoka County and Anoka County Library have joined others in the newest trend - "Twitter." Its fun, easy, *free*, and we'll be able to readily measure its impact.

**Carver County Library System** - Melissa Brechon, Director

**Budget News** - Carver County Administration is looking to find a $2.5 million dollar budget cut to be put into effect June, 2009. The strategy behind the reduction is to eliminate County dependence on state aid and to stabilize the county budget and related services. The library share of this reduction is $160,000 with $80,000 reduction for the remainder of 2009 which will result in a cut of $160,000 for fiscal year 2010.

Library management staff is currently exploring staff efficiency gains, cost-sharing with other divisions, vacancies, services level reductions, program scale-back and increases in revenue. We do not have the answers but continue to explore options so that the library may remain a vital resource to the communities we serve.

**Collaborations, Cooperative Projects and Conservation** - Carver County Library (CCL) has been focused on these three main areas in the past few months.

**Collaborations** - Annually, CCL collaborates with a number of organizations, including School District 112 to host “Hooked on Books”, a program dedicated to helping reading come alive for youth. This year’s program introduced a new component: a Community Read for adults centered on Greg Mortenson’s book, Three Cups of
Tea. Book discussions were held at the Chaska and Chanhassen libraries with large and enthusiastic audiences. Other school district collaborations include Literacy Night for School District 110, Maud Hart Lovelace Visits for the parochial schools and home schooling component of School District 111 and History Day “Hullabalooos” at Chanhassen and Chaska.

A new collaboration has been initiated with the Carver County Workforce Center resulting in job center displays in each of the Carver County libraries. Introductory computer classes which complement those offered by the Workforce Center are also being held at each library.

The Chanhassen Library is a pilot site for a program that is the fruition of a new collaboration between the Scott Carver Cooperative Family Friends and Neighbors project (FFN), Scott County Library and CCL.

Collaboration with the Carver County Extension office has resulted in the addition of two Master Gardeners’ Help Desks at the Chanhassen and Waconia libraries. Now gardeners throughout the county will have easier access to expert help at the libraries for their gardening concerns.

A collaboration between the law library and the 8th District Bar Association to offer continuing legal education classes for attorneys using the Chanhassen branch location has also been implemented.

Cooperative Projects - Cooperative efforts with 4H in CCL include the “4H Reads 4 You” program, in which the 4H club selects a book, has a club member read it to children in the library and then the children participate in a book-related activity under the auspices of the 4H club members. Originally started in the Norwood Young America and Chaska libraries, this project has now expanded to the Chanhassen, Watertown and Waconia libraries.

Cooperative efforts within the organization have also produced less time intensive programming due to the sharing of program creation and implementation such as Dr. Seuss’ birthday programs and the upcoming How Do Dinosaurs Celebrate Children’s Book Week. In addition, adult programming has replicated reproducible programming that appeals to an area, rather than just one library’s residents in such programming series as the Winter Jackets author talks, Genealogy series and the Gardening series.

Cooperation is the operative word for the Law Library as it has had to relocate to more compact quarters while a new Library space is constructed as part of the Carver County Government Center expansion.

Conservation - CCL has worked on becoming more environmentally friendly with several “Go Green” projects including a Go Green donated paperback book collection housed in each library, a Go Green book drive for Summer Reading Program prizes, Go Green story times, Go Green Carver Kids Explore activity stations and the Message in a Tube program.

Dakota County Library System - Ken Behringer, Director
Robert Trail (Rosemount) Library Opening - Dakota County opened the doors of its newest facility—the Robert Trail Library and License Center in Rosemount on Monday, Feb. 9. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, Feb. 12.

There’s something for everyone at the new library. The new 22,140 square-foot library will house more than 45,000 books, magazines, movies and CDs. It features a large children’s area with a sculpture of Castle Kilcummeragh to celebrate Rosemount’s Irish heritage. The library includes a teen area with diner-style booths for homework or reading and study rooms to accommodate two to four people.

First week statistics – February 9 – February 15
- 6800 Visitors
- New borrowers registered - 412
- Total circulation - 13,845
- First month – February 9 - 28, 2009
- Total Circulation – 28,814
Wescott Branch (Eagan) Grand Reopening Celebration - Wescott Grand Reopening Celebration will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited for a ribbon-cutting and tours of the facility.

Outreach Activities - Andrew Cook, Librarian represented the library at the Farmington Community Expo on Saturday, January 31st. Twenty-five hundred people from around the Farmington area visited the Farmington High School to find about area businesses and non-profits. Over 200 people stopped by the library exhibit and picked up pencils tattoos, and stickers while learning about the services that Dakota County Libraries have to offer. Many were especially excited to learn that the libraries have video games and Museum Adventure Passes to check out.

DCL continued a series of intergenerational library programming on Friday, February 13, 10:30 a.m. in Eagan at The Commons on Marice, a local senior residence in Eagan. Wescott Children’s Librarians collaborated with The Commons for a Valentine’s Day 2009 program with the goal of making the program even more interactive with the children and seniors.

Mike Turbes, Manager, Library Technology, and Maureen Gormley, Information Services Manager, participated in the first of three Technology Fairs for Dakota County employees. They showed over 60 people how to download audiobooks and highlighted other library services they could connect to from home. The remaining two Technology Fairs will be at the Northern Service Center on February 19th and ADC on February 25th from 11-2.

Mary Wussow, Librarian, attended the Inver Grove Heights Healthy Living Fair at the Veterans Memorial Center on Saturday, February 21. Over 180 people stopped to look at the display and chat with Mary about library materials and services.

The most common topics were media, museum passes and computer classes. Mary also displayed a few health and fitness books and DVDs, coordinating with the fair’s theme, and several people wrote down titles. She assisted one woman with her college assignment through a book and health database recommendation, and promoted the new TumbleBook Library to nearly two dozen families with kids.

**Hennepin County Library System - Amy Ryan, Director**
Lois Langer Thompson was selected by the Hennepin County Board to become the Director of the Hennepin County Library System.

As with other libraries in the metro area, HCL is preparing budget reductions. By mid-March the County is asking for a 10% reduction in spending with another 10% reduction expected later in 2009. 50-60 FTE positions are being held open at this point.

**Ramsey County Library System - Susan Nemitz, Director**
Roseville Expansion - Ramsey County approved an $18 million dollar addition and remodel of the Library in Roseville. The project will seek gold level LEED certification. The funding also includes $1 million to implement RFID technology across the seven library system. The Ramsey County Library (RCL) in Roseville will close on March 31, 2009 and reopen at a temporary site near County Road C and Fairview Avenue on May 2, 2009. The remodeled library is expected to reopen in June 2010.

Budget News - RCL took a $160,000 cut in 2008 as a result of the Governor’s unallotment of County program aid. The Library has received a spending reduction target of $260,000 for 2009. The Library is coping with this situation through a reduction to the materials budget, a hiring freeze, a freeze on out of state travel, a reduction in the use of substitute staffing and through the use of the Library’s fund balance. Final reduction targets for 2009 are expected in early summer after the completion of the legislative session.

**St Paul Public Library – Melanie Huggis, Director**
Mayor Coleman has asked all city departments, including the Library, to prepare a reduction of 20% in their already approved 2009 budgets. The Library Director has prepared a budget reduction scenario that includes closing the Hamline-Midway library branch and reducing the materials budget in addition to other changes.
Scott County Library System - Vanessa Birdsey, Director

Budget reductions are anticipated in the Scott County Library and how they will be managed is still being determined.

Washington County Library System - Pat Conley, Director

Things Are Hoppin’ - Washington County Library experienced a significant growth in use in 2008 over 2007. Circulation increased 11% in the nine branches that comprise WCL and increased over 8% if the two city libraries in Stillwater and Bayport are counted. Visitors to the WCL branches increased 6.6%. There is clearly in an increased use of the public access computers in all branches. WCL is only beginning to track computer usage in 2009 which will be the benchmark for future analysis of use; however, January and February 2009 statistics show that people are using the computers to access the Word Office Suite at a much higher rate (over 33%) that was expected. Social networking, gaming and checking emails appear to remain the mainstays of the computer use at WCL.

Money is Tight - 2008 Washington County Library experienced a loss of $254,000 in property tax revenue mainly as a result of the Governor’s unallotment of County program aid. Due to increases in non-levy revenues, the Library was able to cope with the reductions without dipping into its fund balance. Things don’t look that good for 2009 and 2010. In anticipation of levy reductions, effective March 1, 2009, the County Board authorized an increase in fees and some changes in library policy. The Library anticipates reductions in staff FTE but no final determination will be made until the Governor and Legislature conclude budget negotiations later in the summer. So far .5 FTE Office Support II has been eliminated effective 3/3/09. Details on the fee changes are available on the WCL website: www.co.washington.mn.us/library.

We Aren’t Open as Often - As another budget management tactic, effective 1/1/09, the County Board authorized a reduction in hours at four of the nine WCL branches. Total weekly hours for all branches have been reduced from 376.5 hours per week in 2008 to 349 hours per week in 2009.

Black Belt Librarianship in WCL - Warren Graham, author of Black Belt Librarians, will conduct a day-long staff training on Wednesday, March 11. His presentation at the Public Library Association Annual Conference in Minneapolis last March was a huge crowd pleaser. He gives advice on dealing with difficult situations, including difficult patrons, in a public library setting apparently resonates with front line staff. It should be fun!

We are Becoming More Civil - The Washington County Library Board has established the first “One County-One Book” program to be conducted in March and April 2009. The Board is asking the County community to read Dr. P.M. Forni’s book on civility in an uncivil time entitled “Choosing Civility: the 25 Rules for Considerate Conduct.” Dr. Forni is a professor of Civility and Italian Literature at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. He will come to Washington County to speak and conduct a community discussion on April 21, 2009. For more information please check the WCL website.

We Are Going Global With Minitex - Eight stalwart librarians from WCL have joined the AskMN team and have been monitoring local questions on the live chat network since January. Effective March 3, 2009 the WCL AskMN team began monitoring the global English language system. We are excited and challenged at the same time!

Other Programming Notes - WCL is working with the Science Museum of Minnesota to establish “Collector’s Corners” in its branches where students will highlight science projects. Also teens will be producing their own shorts, probably for display on YouTube, at various branches through the “Quiet on the Set” program. Watch YouTube for debuts!

For more information on these items or other metro public library news, please contact the directors listed!

Submitted by Pat Conley, County Libraries Representative
Budget Concerns at the Forefront - It is no surprise that the issue of concern in K12 libraries currently is the budgetary situation across the state. School districts, like most other state-funded entities, must build budgets without knowing the outcome of the current legislative session. Most schools districts are preparing budgets that require serious reductions, and school library media programs are sometimes targeted for cuts because their positions do not count when districts calculate class size. MEMO is encouraging its members to contact legislators to advocate for investment in education.

METT Survey Deadline Extended - The Minnesota Educational Technology Taskforce has extended the deadline for the METT survey. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the range and depth of technology infrastructure options currently in use by districts. When the survey is complete, the data will be aggregated, and the entire survey will only be available to districts through the secure Educator Portal on the MDE website. The intent of this survey with regard to district level data is to provide local information compared to a statewide benchmark for districts to consider in their own strategic technology planning process. The deadline for completion of the survey has been extended to March 15.

Online Learning in K12 Continues to Grow - According to information provided by the Minnesota Department of Education, online learning in K-12 education grew by 79% last year. There are currently 21 certified online providers in the state, and they are serving over 8,000 students. Additionally, many schools districts are offering courses in a face-to-face setting, but with heavily online components, including several schools offering “hybrid” courses which are face-to-face, but students are not required to attend everyday. Locally offered online education will continue to grow as schools grapple with PSEO, online schools and the governor’s proposal to require all students to take at least one online course before high school graduation by 2013.

School Media Specialists invited to participate in Statewide Resource Trials - MEMO and the Multitype Library Systems have been encouraging K-12 Library Media Specialists to participate in the product evaluation process for the renewal of the ELM resources that are widely used across the state and that serve as the backbone of research tools in K-12 schools.

MEMO represented at ALA and EM - Members of MEMO’s leadership attended the ALA Midwinter Conference in Chicago, where advocacy was a prominent and timely theme. In January, MEMO leaders attended a meeting of the Education Minnesota leadership, where they had the opportunity to highlight both MEMO’s Information Literacy Standards and the legislative/lobbying efforts for education funding that are conducted by MLA/MEMO.

MEMO Fall Conference to be Held in October - School library, media and technology personnel are invited to attend MEMO’s Fall Conference. The conference will be held Oct. 1-3 at the Rochester Conference Center in Rochester. A highlight will be keynote speaker Dr. Scott McLeod, Coordinator of the Educational Administration Program at Iowa State University as well as Director of the UCEA Center for the Advanced Study of Technology Leadership in Education (CASTLE), the nation’s only center dedicated to the technology needs of school administrators. Dr. McLeod was a co-creator of the widely viewed video, Did You Know? (Shift Happens) and is the author of a popular tech leadership blog which can be found at http://www.dangerouslyirrelevant.org.

Submitted by Susan M. Meyer, K12 Schools Representative