Reports included below are:
- State Universities, Joan Roca
- U of M Twin Cities Campus, Wendy Pradt Lougee
- Regional System Libraries, Chris Olson
- University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus, Bill Sozansky
- State Government Libraries, Karla Gedell
- Community Colleges, Ginny Heinrich
- Metro-Area Public Libraries, Patricia Conley
- Technical Colleges, Pat Akerman
- Private Colleges, Dan Gjelten
- Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems, Ruth Solie
- Public Libraries, Mary Lukkarila

State Universities Report
Joan Roca, Minnesota State University, Mankato
December 11, 2009

Bemidji State University, Mankato – Stu Rosselet, Library Director
There’s been nothing much new going on here in Bemidji except that we’ve hired a new Systems/Distance Learning Librarian. Except for the fact that we have someone on sabbatical leave with a replacement, we’re finally back to full staff.

Metropolitan State University - David Barton, Director
Nothing to report at this time.

Minnesota State University Moorhead – Brittney Goodman, Associate V.P & Dean
Nothing to report at this time.

Minnesota State University, Mankato – Joan Roca, Dean
Nothing to report at this time.

St. Cloud State University – Ruth Zietlow, Associate Dean for Library Services
We have had very successful programming around the NEH/ALA Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country Exhibit, which ends on December 10, 2009. We are now looking forward to History Day and are working with our History Department to develop programming that supports History Day in central Minnesota.

SCSU is going through a strategic program appraisal process and we anticipate working with programs on their current library holdings and future needs.

One of our faculty members has just returned from a week-long ACRL information literacy immersion program that focused on assessment.

We are talking with our Graduate Studies department in anticipation of the first SCSU dissertations in the summer of 2010.

Southwest Minnesota State University – Kathleen Ashe, University Librarian
SMSU Library is the happy beneficiary of stimulus funds. The Library acquisitions budget has received $200,000 to be expended by September 2011. It’s a challenge the librarians and the faculty enjoy.

In other news, we lost a fixed term librarian midway through the semester to a tenure track position at Bemidji State University. With positive recommendations from Minnesota State University, Mankato we have hired a fixed term for spring 2010. We are working to make the position a tenure track position and hope to be able to do a national search in the spring.

December has been a month of awards given by the SMSU Library. Southwest Minnesota State University
holds an Undergraduate Research Conference every year in December. This year 12 students submitted their research projects for consideration for the Library's Research award. Two cash awards for exemplary research were presented. At our end of the semester holiday party we will present two $400 scholarships to library student workers from the Library's Scholarship fund held by the SMSU Foundation.

We look forward to an equally active Spring Semester.

Winona State University – Thomas Bremer, Dean
Nothing to report at this time.

Submitted by Joan Roca, State Universities Representative

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University of Minnesota – Twin Cities Campus Report
Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota - TC
December 11, 2009

Recent Programs and Projects
Google Scanning Project
Approximately 35,000 duplicate federal documents have been shipped for Google sheet feds scanning. These scans will be available through Google books and will be part of the Hathi Trust. The Libraries expect to begin sending volumes to Google at the end of March, 2010 as part of our CIC Google scanning project. We estimate that we will provide between 500,000 and 1 million volumes. The project will continue for the next three to four years.

New Role in Health Sciences Libraries and the Institute for Health Informatics
The Health Sciences Libraries and the Institute for Health Informatics welcomed Layne Johnson to the University in October, in a new, shared position of Translational Science Information Specialist to support translational research taking place at the University of Minnesota’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). In this role, Layne Johnson will work closely with University Libraries staff on University-wide initiatives in Interdisciplinary Informatics, E-Science, Data Services, and Research Cyberinfrastructure. Layne Johnson is the first Library Fellow in the Institute for Health Informatics where he will teach, conduct informatics research, and help coordinate the graduate program.

Program for Cooperative Cataloging BIBCO program
In November, 2009, catalogers received training for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging BIBCO program, positioning UM-Twin Cities Libraries to provide national-level cataloging records for the library community.

Verde News
Implementation of Verde, the University Libraries’ Electronic Resources Management system, has moved into the production phase. The Ex Libris product allows staff to track the lifecycle of electronic resources management from selection through acquisition, licensing, cataloging, activation, and maintenance.

University Digital Conservancy to add E-masters’ theses
Electronic masters' theses from the University of Minnesota are now being added to the University Digital Conservancy (UDC). Technical Services staff upload the documents, and provide metadata as well as a brief catalog record for the digitized copy. Doctoral dissertations are already a part of the UDC.

Lewis Lapham: Mixed Media
Lewis Lapham gave a public presentation on December 3rd, 2009. This Friends of the Libraries sponsored event highlighted “Mixed Media” and the tribulations of the printed word in the wilderness of cyberspace. The New York Times has likened Mr. Lapham to H.L. Mencken; Vanity Fair has suggested a strong resemblance to Mark Twain, and best-selling author Tom Wolfe compared him to Montaigne. Lewis Lapham is Editor Emeritus of Harper's Magazine and the Founding Editor of Lapham's Quarterly, a journal of the history of ideas. The author
of thirteen books, among them Theater of War and Money and Class in America, Mr. Lapham is the host of Bloomberg Radio's weekly program, "The World in Time."

**Libraries hold Emerging Tech Expo**
On November 18, 2009, the Libraries held the first Libraries' Emerging Tech Expo co-sponsored by the Libraries' Information Technology and Staff Education and Development. This special event was attended by over 180 Libraries staff. This event hosted a combination of technology presentation and exhibits. Presentation topics included the UThink blog system, the Drupal content management system, the Google Apps Collaborative Suite, and the Virtual World of Second Life. Staff also learned about new technology and tools on social networking, citation management, video production, Google Apps, and many cool gadgets and mobile technologies. Visit the Expo blog at: [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/emergingtexpoblog/](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/emergingtexpoblog/)

**Upcoming Exhibits and Events:** [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events)

- **A Century of Accomplishment, 1909-2009: The One Hundredth Anniversary of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing**
  - When: Through December 15, 2009
  - Where: Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine
  - Free and open to the public.

  This exhibit was developed by the staff of the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine who hosted a number of tours and events with nursing faculty and students, nursing alums, and guests this fall.

- **Kerlan Collection's 60th Anniversary**
  - When: Through December 31, 2009
  - Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library Exhibit Gallery
  - Free and open to the public.

  Sixty years ago, Dr. Irvin Kerlan donated his collection of children's books to the University of Minnesota. Dr. Kerlan chose what was best and representative of each current year and, when he could afford it, bought children's classics and past Newbery winners. Soon he began pursuing the background material that went into making the books, writing letters to authors and illustrators, and they replied by forwarding their original manuscripts, artwork, and selected correspondence with editors and children. From the halls of a Washington, D.C., brownstone to the caverns of the University, the Kerlan Collection now contains over 110,000 children's books, as well as original manuscripts, artwork, galleys, and color proofs for more than 18,000 titles.

- **Nothing Unattempted: The Voyages of Captain James Cook**
  - When: Through December 31
  - Where: T.R. Anderson Gallery
  - Free and open to the public.

  Noted British navigator and explorer James Cook was a man of many "firsts." He was the first British commander to circumnavigate the globe in a single vessel, the first known European to visit the Hawaiian Islands, the first European to land on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. He forever influenced naval life by actively preventing scurvy among his seamen, and his astronomical observations contributed significantly to modern knowledge of the solar system. Explore the fascinating career of the man who left "nothing unattempted."

- **Against All Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health**
  - When: January 18, 2010 through February 26, 2009
  - Where: Diehl Hall, second floor
  - Free and open to the public.

The University Libraries’ Health Sciences Libraries will be hosting this traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine. Information about the exhibit at the National Library of Medicine can be found here: [http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/index.cfm](http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/index.cfm)
First Fridays: Virtue & Vice in the Stacks - Chastity and Lust
What: First Fridays: Virtue & Vice in the Stacks
When: Friday, February 5, 2009 • noon - 1 p.m.
Where: 120 Elmer L. Andersen Library
Free and open to the public.


Chastity and Lust
Staff from the Social Welfare History Archives and the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies will present talks on the theme of chastity and lust. Linnea Anderson, Assistant Archivist in the Social Welfare History Archives, will discuss efforts by social reformers and public health advocates to regulate sexual behavior in the first half of 20th century. Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, GLBT Collections Specialist, will speak on the lust for collecting that inspires the founding of many special collections libraries.

NOMMO African American Authors Series: Quincy Troupe
Where: Coffman Memorial Union Theater
When: April 28, 2010
Tickets available through Northrop Ticket Office: Each event: $15 • Series pass: $25

In this series, host and moderator Alexs Pate, University of Minnesota professor and author of Amistad, takes you on a journey into the consciousness of two luminary writers. These dynamic events feature the authors reading from their work and engaging in spirited dialogue with Pate about the state of the art of African American literature.

Quincy Troupe is the author of 17 books, including American Book Award winners Snake-Back Solos and Miles: The Autobiography. In 1991, he received the prestigious Peabody Award for "The Miles Davis Radio Project," broadcast in seven parts on National Public Radio. Troupe co-authored the best seller The Pursuit of Happyness with Chris Gardner, which chronicled Gardner's journey from homelessness to success on Wall Street. The book became the basis of an award-winning movie of the same name, starring Will Smith. Troupe is professor emeritus of creative writing and American and Caribbean literature at the University of California, San Diego, and the founding editorial director for Code Magazine. He is currently editor of Black Renaissance Noire, published by the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University. This series is co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center.

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

Regional System Libraries Report
Chris Olson, Director, Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)
September 11, 2009

Arrowhead Library System - Jim Weikum, Director
ALS Member Library Strategic Planning
I have been reporting on the progress made by the consultant (Whitney Crettol) ALS engaged to conduct strategic planning processes for each of our member public libraries. She has now completed planning processes and written strategic plans for two of our “clusters” (a total of eight libraries) and is now in the midst of working with the third cluster (four more libraries) of libraries. I believe that I have mentioned that Whitney is utilizing a modified version of the “Service Priorities” from the PLA planning process. While we’re not quite one-third of the way through the entire process, a few trends are starting to emerge. ALS will also soon start posting the member library strategic plans on the ALS website.
Technical Services Librarian
I have also reported previously that as a result of a consultant’s recommendation for a major restructuring of how ALS organized almost all of Technical Services functions, ALS started a search for candidates for our vacant Technical Services Librarian position. We designed the position to be a two-year contract position. I am pleased to report that Angeles Ramos-Ankrum has accepted an offer from Express Employment Professionals to be the new Technical Services Librarian at ALS. She began work on November 2. She and her family are moving here from Slayton, Minnesota. Angie has worked at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall; New York Public Library; and Queens Borough Public Library in New York. She has several years of cataloging and other technical service operations experience.

Graphic Artist
After a long, courageous battle with illness, former ALS Graphic Artist Rita Grierson passed away on August 12. Rita has started working for ALS in 1978. On September 28, Brian Minor started as the new Graphic Artist here at ALS. He has extensive experience in the graphic arts field and has jumped right into the backlog of projects here at ALS.

Database Additions & Cost-Sharing Changes
A committee of staff from ALS member libraries periodically discuss options for new database products. Back in 2008, ALS added two products with ALS covering 100% of the annual licensing fees: the Gale Virtual Reference Library and Gale’s ChiltonLibrary.com. This year, the librarians identified the Small Engine Repair Reference Center from EBSCO, again with ALS covering the full cost. At the beginning of this year, ALS also absorbed the full cost for Biography Reference Center from Gale, something for which we had previously shared the licensing costs with our member public libraries. For 2010, our libraries voted to drop the ALS “subscription” to Reference USA (again, with the licensing costs having been shared between ALS and member libraries) and instead opting for the LearningExpress Library that ALS will cover 100%. Rebecca Patton was able to convince the vendor to start providing access in 2009.

East Central Regional Library - Barbara Misselt, Library Director
50th Anniversary Celebrations
A two-week moving party through all 14 branches took place in November.

Library automation system
ECRL retained an attorney who has met with the Board and is currently in negotiation with the SirsiDynix attorney. The attorney we were previously working with left SirsiDynix employment, and we were not notified (as Eric Keith had previously left unannounced.) We are preparing an RFI to find a vendor for a professional services contract to run an Evergreen system. Target date to migrate by May 2010.

2010 Budget
2 of the 6 counties have approved it. We need 4 counties to approve the budget before it becomes official. We’ve been informed that Aitkin County will not approve it, and does not intend to pay their share, which would necessitate cutting services in Aitkin County according to the Joint Powers Agreement.

Bookmobile Sold
It went on Isanti County Sheriff’s auction for $1,600. Marketed it for 4 months across Minnesota and western Wisconsin as well as new, refreshed listings on Craig’s list every 30 days. Lots of calls, a few lookers. No one would even make an offer.

Great River Regional Library - Kirsty Smith, Library Director
Summer Reading Numbers: UP!
This year’s Summer Reading Program (SRP) saw a total of 11,497 individuals registered for the baby/toddler program, children’s program and teen program. The numbers were up in most categories over last year.
- Baby/toddler program: 759 registered (695 in 2008), 289 finished (302 in 2008).
- Children’s Program: 9,170 registered (7,999 in 2008), 4,210 finished (3,918 in 2008).
- Teen program: 1,568 registered (1,218 in 2008) with 8,482 coupons submitted (7,022 in 2008). The 8,482 coupons represent 33,928 hours or 2,035,680 minutes of reading.
Great River Regional Library (GRRL) celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sept. 25, 2009.

When GRRL was created, the signatories included St. Cloud, Benton County, Morrison County, Stearns County and Wright County. It was a 14-library system including St. Cloud Public Library which was an independent signatory to the agreement with the counties and was designated as the headquarters library.

Merle Lennartson, librarian of the St. Cloud Public Library, became the first GRRL Director. The Branch libraries were: Albany, Annandale, Belgrade, Buffalo, Cold Spring, Delano, Howard Lake, Kimball, Melrose, Richmond, Royalton, Swanville and Waite Park. The system also had three bookmobiles that provided services in many rural locations.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library - Kathy Fredette, Library Director

Health Insurance

Our health insurance costs will only go up 2% for 2010. The overall increase for the entire insurance pool (through Lakes Country Service Cooperative) was 4.3% and the formula range was from 1% to 16%. The single plan will go from $371.50 to $379 per month. The family plan will go from $1,023 to $1,043.50 per month.

There will be no increase in the deductible and out-of-pocket maximum for 2010. The deductible for a single policy in 2010 will remain at $1,850 and a family policy will be $3,700. The maximum out-of-pocket for single coverage will be $3,500 and $6,500 for family coverage. The deductible and out-of-pocket maximum is the same as we’ve had for 2006 through 2009.

For employees who work 32 hours or more per week, LARL pays the premium for a single policy. If an employee wishes to have family coverage, LARL applies the cost of the single policy towards the family policy and the employee is responsible for the remainder of the premium.

We’ve Been Taken – Big Time!

The Fargo Public Library Director called on August 21st to say that some of Fargo’s DVDs and many of LARL’s were found at a Fargo pawnshop. The person pawning the items said the Fargo items came from a library book sale. Some of the markings on the LARL DVDs appeared to have been changed from ‘LARL’ to read ‘CARLA’! Our Collection Development Librarian was able to link the materials to several customer barcodes and identified at least 9 cards that appear to belong to one family. The total amounts of fines/fees/replacement costs are about $7,300! We’ve been working with the local police and the matter has now been turned over to the Clay County Attorney’s Office for prosecution. Our attorney is working with the County Attorney’s office on LARL’s behalf. Last we heard, authorities have been unable to locate the main culprit.

Legacy-related Activities

Three focus group sessions were held in Moorhead (Sept. 21st), Detroit Lakes (Sept. 22nd) and Crookston (Sept. 24th). We invited individuals who represent a broad range of the arts, cultural and historic heritage organizations across the 7-county region and encouraged them to invite others who could contribute the dialogue. These are potential partners and collaborators who, we anticipate, will work with us to maximize Legacy dollars in order to reach as many people as possible across the region. At the same time, we launched a survey off our website, to gather program and event ideas from citizens of all ages. Staff ideas continue to be gathered through Coordinating Team meetings, Hub meetings, and via information shared in Staff Connections, the staff newsletter.
Annual All Staff Day

Sixty-seven staff members attended the annual All Staff Day in Moorhead on Oct. 12th (Columbus Day). Featured speakers were independent filmmaker Gayle Knutson (originally from Detroit Lakes and now living in Stillwater, MN) and John Johnson, advocate/trainer for Options Resource Center for Independent Learning in East Grand Forks who spoke on “Working with People with Disabilities”. The morning session was held at the Hjemkomst Center. Lunch and the afternoon sessions were held at the Moorhead Library. After lunch and a tour of the remodeled computer and staff workroom areas (led by Moorhead staff), those attending were able to select from 9 topics and attend 3 sessions of their choosing. Topics included: Customer Service Tips, How to for Displays, Legacy Fund Brainstorming, Net Library Media Center, Qi-ssage, Web Catalog Suggestions, Zumba Dance, and Regional Office Tours.

Authors in Communities

The MN Humanities Center has awarded LARL $3,000 to host “Authors in Communities” programs in Crookston, Detroit Lakes and Mahnomen between Sept. 2009 and June 2010. This funding is separate from the Legacy Funds but there is a possibility of using Legacy funds to expand these opportunities either in these three communities or to additional communities in the region. LARL’s Public Information/Marketing Director Janelle Brandon wrote the grants and is currently lining up potential authors. One author will be chosen for each of the three communities.

Metropolitan Library Service Agency/MELSA - Chris Olson, Director

Homework Rescue: Academic Emergency- Click Here!

MELSA started the school year with the rollout of its homework help program… now branded: “Homework Rescue Online Learning.” We’ve been getting a fair amount of media coverage… with articles in both the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press. Marcus Lowry, Ramsey County Library, appeared on KSTP’s Eyewitness News (http://www.melsa.org/photo_gallery.cfm) and explained the program well for the metro area. My favorite review so far…

When I got home from work on Monday, I found my daughter (Emma) and my husband /struggling/ (and I mean struggling) to answer one of her homework questions (in all fairness to my husband…she is in 9th grade enriched physics…. and it’s been a long, _long_ time since he’s worked on the subject). Anyway, turns out, they had spent over an hour working on _one_ question and/finally/ came to the correct answer … but, my husband insisted that the reason it took so long was because the teacher worded the questions incorrectly. Well…having learned about Melsa's homework helper at the MLA last week, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to test it out. She logged in, entered the question, and had an answer w/in 5 minutes! And, what was even better was, the tutor didn't do the work for her, but helped her walk thru the steps to find out how to arrive to the correct answer. And, in the process, the tutor clarified the confusion w/ the question (turns out, the question wasn't worded incorrectly at all…the student just needed to be careful to pay attention to the units being used). Anyway, if this is any indication of how well “homework rescue” will work for us in the future, then Melsa is a godsend to our family! :)

Legacy Funds Update From Our Perspective

MELSA has hired a Legacy Funds Project Manager with RLBSS funds to help coordinate the projects within the metro area. Melinda Ludwiczak started in the position in September… and will be on a mobility assignment from the Hennepin County Library. She will remain an HCL employee and MELSA will reimburse the county for her wages and benefits during the next 24 months. She will also manage a metro-wide Workforce Development project for MELSA during the same time period. We’re excited to have her on board… and will utilize the many community partnerships she has created with her work at Minneapolis Public and Hennepin County.

Ramsey County hosted the first of several “Community Assets” discussions for the library and its potential local partners. We had more than 50 people attend the session at the Maplewood Library with about 25 organizations.

We also are working with the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library to bring in an exhibit of national-known photographer, Clyde Butcher from January to April 2010. The exhibit will be housed at the Hill Library and the downtown Saint Paul Public Library.
Plum Creek Library System - Mark Ranum, Director

Budget
PCLS came very close (within 4-6 weeks operating budget) of depleting the budget reserves before the October RLBSS payment arrived. The Board met in October to discuss the ongoing budget shortfalls and operating changes implemented by the staff to save money during the current fiscal year. PCLS ended the previous fiscal year June 30, 2009 with a fund balance of just under $30,000, which was actually an increase from FY 2008.

Interestingly, the auditor praised the financial operation and fiscal processes. He was quick to point out that while PCLS often ends the fiscal year with a low cash fund balance, the last few years of dramatically decreasing RLBSS income means that either the RLBSS formula will need to change to benefit PCLS, or PCLS will need to find other income streams, or PCLS will need to dramatically change the business model for serving member libraries.

Services
Interlibrary loan was up almost 25% over the past year and we are looking at ways to encourage cooperative collection development and local collection development in lieu of ILL service. Resource sharing has continued to improve for new materials, with one notable exception...

Edgerton Library
The Edgerton Library has been significantly deficient in resource sharing by withholding materials from the normal holds/reserves process that allows other library’s patrons to reserve other library’s materials. To complicate matters, they have used a process that creates a false circulation statistic. These statistics are used to divide county dollars between Pipestone and Edgerton libraries, so Pipestone has appealed to the County and PCLS to get reimbursement from dollars wrongly sent to Edgerton.

Southeastern Libraries Cooperating/SELCO - Ann Hutton, Director
Preparation for the Seasonal and H1N1 Flu
SELCO launched an H1N1 Flu Resources website earlier this fall. It includes current news, general information, an assortment of web widgets for libraries and flu resources in a variety of languages.
http://www.selco.info/display/lr/H1N1+Flu+Resources

FY 2010 Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy Grant
SELCO is hosting 11 Legacy discussions in various locations around the region. These will be co-sponsored by SEMAC and the information gathered will be used to refine details for the regional projects.

SELCO Trademark Claim
We received communication from SELCO Community Credit Union of Eugene, Oregon alleging trademark infringement. Our attorney, Dunlap and Seegar, advised that while the name SELCO is the same, the services provided by our library cooperative are sufficiently different than those offered by the credit union. Since there is no likelihood of confusion by two discrete customer groups --- those served by an 11-county library cooperative in Minnesota versus a local financial institution serving eight communities in six Oregon counties -- there is no infringement. Correspondence to this effect is being prepared.

E-Commerce Service for SELCO Online Library Borrowers
In November, SELCO began offering the option of paying Horizon fines and fees online with any major credit card. Funds will be collected by SELCO and then distributed quarterly to the Online Libraries. Payments related to lost, damaged, or overdue items will be distributed to the owning library. Payments related to fees, such as lost card or photocopy fees, will go to the Online Library that created the fee in Horizon.

Technology Report
SELCO migrated the SELCO/SELS website to a new Content Management System (CMS) which went live on August 4. We selected a commercial product, Confluence, which provides support. In addition, Confluence offers a licensing system that is free to non-profit entities. The overall design of the website is quite similar since this project was not intended to be an architectural redevelopment but it does offer some interesting opportunities for interaction.
Traverse des Sioux Library System - Dayle Zelenka, Library Director

Budget Issues
I have convened a fee structure committee to find a sustainable, justifiable and affordable fee structure for charging our member libraries.

Legacy Funds
We are working closely with the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council to coordinate Legacy grants. We will be holding a series of workshops following the CRPLSA-sponsored workshop on Nov. 4. These workshops will be geared toward teams of local libraries and their partner organizations and will address grant applications, program design and outcome measurement.

Strategic Planning
We have convened a committee to work on our 2011-2013 Strategic Plan.

Viking Library System - Peg Werner, Director
Viking Library System has begun the process of replacing Nancy Alsop, former Public Library Consultant. The position requires an ALA/MLIS with 7 – 10 years of public library experience preferred.

VLS continues to research health insurance companies and proposals. We are currently looking at HDHSP options. (High Deductible Health Savings Plan). Both Lakes Country Service Cooperative and Principal Financial will be submitting proposals.

After a couple of years of a revamped website, the webmaster is once again adding new features and making corrections in response to user suggestions. There will be a distinct icon for My Account, a librarian’s blog with contributions from all librarians as well as VLS staff, and a new section featuring the VLS building project.

Speaking of the building project... the crew is currently working on putting the parking lot in, they have begun the exterior siding and then only the interior finishes remain. The current timeline shows a completion date of December 31, 2009, but those dates are always subject to change.

Submitted by Chris Olson, Regional System Libraries Representative

University of Minnesota Coordinate Campus Libraries Report
Bill Sozansky, Director, University of Minnesota, Duluth
December 11, 2009

University of Minnesota, Crookston – Owen Williams, Library Director
The UMC Library is nearing completion of a scanning project of yearbooks for the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Crookston. From 1910 to 2000 the schools produced yearbooks, which chronicled the year’s activities, students and staff. This digitized collection offers a rich and unique history of these schools throughout the decades. The yearbooks are fully searchable or can be browsed one at a time. The collection can be found at: http://yearbooks.umcrookston.edu/

The yearbook project is part of a larger digitizing project in which important or rare archival documents are scanned and made available via the Internet. Other documents that have been scanned include the Northwest Monthly Newsletter, College Bulletins, and graduation programs.

University of Minnesota, Morris – LeAnn Dean, Library Director
With the end of the semester, Briggs Library (University of Minnesota, Morris) has announced its traditional extended hours, staying open until 2:00 am and adding 5 hours to Saturday study day. In addition to the midnight snacks provided by Briggs Associates (Friends of the Library group) early in finals week, free coffee is provided after 10:00 pm other nights.
The library staff recently completed and submitted a staffing plan to the UMM administration. As requested, it included plans to address the two vacant library positions in both short and long term.

We are midway through this year’s Asking the Big Questions discussion group series. Co-sponsored by the UMM Commission on Women and the UMM Sustainability Coordinator’s office, this monthly gathering is focusing on Women and Gender issues in 2009-2010.

We are continuing to sponsor our Game Night where the library stays open until late on one Friday night a month. Board and card games, as well as a library version of miniature golf, are available on the middle two floors of the library while students still wanting to study gravitate to a quiet corner on either the first or fourth floors.

University of Minnesota, Duluth – Bill Sozansky, Library Director

“Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country,” a traveling exhibition coming to the UMD Library January 4 through February 25, 2010, tells the story of the explorers’ historic 1804–1806 expedition from the point of view of the Indians who lived along the route. The exhibit will be free and open to the public, on display in the library’s fourth floor rotunda reading room. The University of Minnesota Duluth Library has been selected as one of 27 sites for this six-year national traveling exhibition.

Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country” draws upon original documents in the rich Native American collections of the Newberry Library, and in the collections of the Washington State Historical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other institutions.

Organized by the Newberry Library, Chicago, in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, “Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country” was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life. Additional support came from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Sara Lee Foundation is the lead corporate sponsor; Ruth C. Ruggles and the National Park Service also supported the exhibit.

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

State Government Libraries Report
Karla Gedell, Minnesota Attorney General Library
December 11, 2009

Attorney General Library – Anita Anderson, Law Librarian

Library staff are in the midst of what we are calling The Big Shift. As of July 1, several federal reporter titles were cancelled. We are recycling duplicate copies, rarely-used sets, and older CFR titles, all of which are available through our various electronic subscriptions. We are also reclassifying and rearranging smaller topical sets from past library consolidations. Of course, there’s some weeding and a search for desperately needed shelf space in certain call numbers.

Dept. of Employment & Economic Development Library (DEED) – Dru Frykberg, Senior Librarian

The DEED Library hosted five staff workshops on using Twitter and blogs, and additional sessions will be offered to meet demand.

Librarians Dru Frykberg and Brooke Roegge also plan to offer in 2010 workshops on wikis and online productivity tools, as well as sessions on LinkedIn and Facebook.

In other news, Dru will serve as the Minnesota SLA Chapter’s 2010 Program Chair/Vice President, and Brooke co-presented “Web 2.0: Outreach Now – How to Prepare for the Future” at the Dec. 10, 2009 Minnesota Government IT Symposium in St. Paul.
Legislative Reference Library – Robbie LaFleur, Director
The Legislative Reference Library hosted the National Conference of State Legislatures annual conference for Legislative Research Librarians in October. We had lots of interesting sessions planned for the librarians gathered from many states and one Canadian province. You can read about some of the sessions here: http://minnlrl.wordpress.com/.

Legislative Reference Library director Robbie LaFleur traveled to Berlin, Germany in October to tour libraries and archives. Read her interesting impressions in her blog, A Brief Berlin Byline.

In November, Robbie LaFleur was featured in a Star Tribune article discussing her role in keeping a Metro Gang Strike Force report online for legislators, researchers, and citizens to read. You can read the article here: http://www.startribune.com/politics/state/72017367.html.

Mn/DOT Library – Sheila Hatchell, Director
Two migrations happened during this quarter. Our periodicals subscriptions management went out for bid and was awarded to Ebsco, a new vendor for us. Library Clerk Pam Gonzalez worked tirelessly to make this a successful transition. The second migration involved Mn/DOT moving its email system from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook. This came with the additional challenge of reduced mailbox sizes. We are still in the process of getting our library external email address working; however, our Ask- A-Librarian link and form on our library’s Web site continues to reach us.

Mn/DOT held an E-Magination Jam September 14-18. The 5-day online event encouraged staff to “think outside the cube” and contribute ideas for innovative ways to improve our work processes. Ideas were to be aligned with the department’s strategic goals. More than 527 ideas were submitted and sorted into 7 theme areas. Three of the themes have been selected by the Stewardship Council as flagship initiatives: Tech Connections, Sustainability, and becoming a Workplace of Choice. The library submitted suggestions for technology improvements which we hope will be addressed in the Tech Connections initiative.

The library hosted a mini peer exchange on November 16th. Transportation Librarians from Michigan, Ohio, Louisiana, and Buffalo, New York participated. Marketing products were exchanged and information about how to communicate the value of library services was shared. Also discussed were libraries’ strategies for providing value-added services to library customers.

Karen Neinstadt and Sheila gave a presentation to the Bridge Office on library services, and Jim Byerly attended the Internet Librarian Conference.

Karen won a raffle at Mn/DOT’s Night at the Saints Game this past summer and had her car washed inside and out by two of our Division Directors. They did an amazing job - her car looked brand new when they were done with it.

Submitted by Karla Gedell, State Government Libraries Representative

Community Colleges Report
Ginny Heinrich, Minnesota State Community and Technical College
December 11, 2009

University Center Rochester - Dale Pederson, Library Director
The campus enrollment is up about 6% for Fall Semester. Goddard Library gate count is up 20%.

We completed a trial and are in the process of subscribing to the new Films on Demand Streaming Video Collection. We are currently streaming about 100 titles that have been captured and stream from local servers and we have links to Annenberg and the tpt Video Vault. Student and faculty interest in streaming videos seems high.
We are in the process of eliminating our microfilm collection and some of our microfiche collection. It has now been over two years since a student has used any of our microfilm collection. We will soon be offering the film to MnSCU libraries and then others. Three film cabinets will also be available.

Staffing and hours remain constant from last year. Library non-personnel budgets are up about 3% for RCTC and down about 6% for WSU-R. We are told that FY11 will be a more difficult budget year than FY10. Migration of more acquisition budget from printed materials to on-line materials continues. The Library Technology Center (about 100 computers) is used at near capacity for several hours per day. Other library student seating is also approaching capacity at the busiest hours of the day. The merger of Media Services and RCTC Computer Help Desks and co-location of WSU-R Computer Help Desk and other campus technology support into the newly named Technology Support Center on first floor of the library has been well received and is progressing successfully.

Minnesota West Community & Technical College – Pam Sukalski, Distant Learning Librarian
The College started the conversion process from Dewey to LC at our Worthington campus. Our four other campuses have always been on LC. We have completed about 85% of our general collection since beginning the project when Spring semester ended last May.

We had 5% budget cuts across all of our library budgets for FY10. We did lose some staff hours from the tutoring areas that are housed in our Library & Academic Resource Centers along with a library staff retirement that wasn't replaced. However, we have had a librarian position moved from 80% to 100% this year, so that is great news for our college!

We are pushing more dollars towards electronic purchases this year, including e-books and streaming video. With multiple campuses and strong online programs, we are seeing the need to make as many resources as possible available in electronic format to have accessibility for all of our students.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College – Ginny Heinrich, Library Director
The College has seen continued growth in library use over the semester on parallel or greater than our campus enrollment increase of about 13% for Fall semester.

We’ve started planning for a focus on collection assessment and management over the next 2-3 years, looking in particular at electronic resource management and developing collection policies that will serve us as we move further toward leased access to content, particularly around journal and reference titles. This will also involve increasing our focus on cataloging and metadata management as the newer faceted search tools do a better job of utilizing MARC and other metadata.

In Spring 2010, librarian Ginny Heinrich will be on sabbatical. Her sabbatical replacements are Carla Urban of Minitex to teach INFS 2200 Introduction to Cataloging, Bruce Willms of Metropolitan State University to teach INFS 1200 Introduction to Technical Information Services, and Preeti Gupta to work on the reference desk and other library operations activities. Librarian Tom Eland has applied for a sabbatical for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 academic year.

We’re on course to fill 12 sections of INFS 1000 Information Literacy and Research Skills for Spring 2010. Library faculty will be proposing a change to our Library Information Technology A.S. degree and Technical Information Services certificate to require both INFS 2200 Introduction to Cataloging and INFS 2210 Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting. Right now, students have the option to take one or the other. We are proposing this change due to the increase in digital library initiatives and the new ALA certification program. In addition, we are reconvening our LIT program advisory committee. If you are interested in serving, let us know.

Submitted by Ginny Heinrich, Community Colleges Representative
Reducing budgets…increasing demand for service…innovation, cooperation and awards…Metro Public Libraries have it all!

**Anoka County Library – Janet Karius, Assistant Director**

Anoka County Library’s budget was recently adopted by the Anoka Board of Commissioners. It reflected a decrease of .52% over the reductions taken in the 2009 budget. No further decreases in open hours are anticipated at this time and the materials budget is slated to remain relatively stable.

Anoka County Library will host several authors during Winter Jackets: Winter Reading for Adults beginning in mid-January and continuing through February. Authors include Jim Bruton (January 9), Brian Freeman (February 6), Julie Kramer (February 20) and Mary Janice Davidson (February 27).

**Carver County Library – Janet Karius, Assistant Director**

Carver County Library met a first-time milestone with one million circulations reached in early December. The Library is celebrating the milestone by offering free reusable bags to customers with the label “thanks a million.”

Carver County Library observed National Family Caregivers Month in November with displays of library resources, free brochures, and other information of value to the growing numbers of caregivers in our communities and a focus on available information on the Web on the Library website.

A newly formed Writer’s Group began meetings in the Chanhassen Library offering support, motivation, and advice from local published writers.

Carver County Library staff partnered with Eastern Carver County School District 112 Intercultural Specialists to provide a series of parent nights at the Chaska Library for ELL families. Using the Library’s new mobile computer lab, these sessions introduce the participants to the School District’s website parent portal, the Library’s Homework Rescue service, and other library resources.

**Dakota County Library – Ken Behringer, Library Director; Roseanne Byrne, Deputy Director**

Levels of business continue to increase as folks utilize library resources, services and programs; circulation has increased through November almost 19% over 2008. We have seen a strong response to our computer/technology classes as well; all nine branches offer classes ranging from resumes to web skills.

In addition, the Library currently has three staff involved in the Dakota County Leadership Training program. This intensive 8 month program covers all aspects of managerial skills and knowledge as well as in-depth review of County operations.

Planning teams have been organized for the planned 2010 remodeling of the Burnhaven Library in Burnsville. Approximately $1.9 million has been budgeted for building upgrades related to improving library operations and energy efficiency, the inclusion of a computer lab, and an expanded entryway. The building, when reopened will also house the Burnsville branch of the Service and License Center, replicating popular multi-use Dakota County facilities in Lakeville and Rosemount.

Dakota County Library launched their new Calendar of Events on Monday, December 7. This new online calendar provides a friendly user-interface for library customers to access library programs from any computer web browser and register for programs online. Customers can be notified by email about programs in their particular areas of interest. DCL customers will not any miss programs which may translate in increased program attendance. MELSA purchased this product for all metro-wide library systems.
Library Administration planned and presented a special training session for all Library managers and supervisors in conjunction with staff from Dakota County Employee Relations.

DCL has reached an agreement with Marcive on authority control services to help automate the process of improving and updating data structures within out catalog records. The parties have signed the document and data transmissions of DCL records should be initiated soon.

A Request for Proposals for Coffee Services at the Wescott Library was released in November and DCL has had contacts from numerous individuals and firms about the prospect of becoming the service provider. The Friends of the Wescott Library have been quite active in spreading the word about this opportunity.

Hennepin County Library – Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director

Highlights for Hennepin County Library – Fall 2009

Started the strategic planning process for premier library service in Hennepin County.

Received 5.6 million visits at our libraries, circulated 16.7 million items and generated 15 million visits to the website (projected year-end numbers).

Near completion of the library network consolidation, bringing all 41 libraries onto the same technology platform.

Began renovations at Northeast and Nokomis libraries, with grand openings scheduled for 2011. To accommodate customers during the libraries’ closures, Hennepin County Library temporarily expanded hours at Roosevelt and St. Anthony libraries throughout the renovations. Work progressed on the new Plymouth and Maple Grove libraries (to open in 2010), as well as development discussions surrounding Brooklyn Park, Webber Park, Excelsior and Walker libraries.

Made significant process improvements in the way we handle and report revenue. All Hennepin County libraries now have a standardized cash management process in place.

Improved the way the Hennepin County Library’s deposits are recorded in the County’s accounting system.

Over the summer, all 41 libraries received new cash registers. We are able to pull the financial information electronically and place it in a file on the network.

Unified the Hennepin County Library’s Human Resources and Payroll processes with the County processes via APEX/PeopleSoft implementation.

Initiated the process for starting Friends of the Library groups at East Lake, Linden Hills, Sumner and Washburn libraries, with additional groups planned for 2010.

Increased the use of volunteers, including more than 100 at Homework Hub. As of Nov. 1, 1,802 volunteers have contributed 62,173 hours.

Participated in green partnerships, including hosting three Cool County energy fairs and partnering with Xcel Energy to offer energy meters available for check-out.

Streamlined printing customer notices.

Expanded digitized collection of historic materials.

Honored with a Minnesota History Award for Hennepin County Library’s Minnesota Sesquicentennial exhibition, "Minnovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity.” The award recognizes excellence in the field of local history.

Ramsey County Library – Susan Nemitz, Library Director

The construction of the Ramsey County Library in Roseville continues. A Tech Logic automated handling system has been selected. The RFP for RFID has been issued. Dunn has been chosen for the coffee shop
vendor. The temporary facility has circulated over 1 million items this year. The remodeled facility should open around July 1. The Library and the Friends have raised over $600,000 toward the project.

The County has completed a two year budgeting process. Reductions have been taken to the collections budget and vacant positions have been eliminated. The budget includes operating funds through 2010 for the Arden Hills branch. The County has challenged the Library to find a long term facilities solution for the site or lose the operating funds permanently. Unallotments have and will continue to reduce the Library’s budget.

Circulation and demand for workforce development, children’s literacy and info literacy programs continue to grow.

St. Paul Public Library – Kit Hadley, Library Director

2010 Budget. The City Council will adopt the 2010 budget on December 16th. The Mayor’s proposed budget would have the following impact:

- Hours - 7% reduction
- Staff - 13% reduction (24.8 FTEs, 7 of which are currently vacant)
- Collection - 15% reduction

Some Council members are working to add funding to the Library’s budget which would add back hours and reduce layoffs to about 10%.

WORKplace Knight Grant. We received a $300,000 two-year grant from the Knight Foundation for mobile, multi-lingual WORKplace services. WORKplace is our brand for job search, workforce skill building, and business start-up services. The grant will enable us to lease a van to transport staff and laptops and hire a trainer and three bi-lingual community liaisons. The goal is to provide WORKplace services in multiple languages throughout the community at places like public housing sites and community centers.

Payne Maryland Community Center. The City Council has approved proceeding with a community center on Payne and Maryland which would provide library and recreation center services. This would replace the Arlington Hills Library. We are working with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation to design truly integrated space, services, and staffing. HGA Architects have been chosen for the project. It would be complete in 2012.

West 7th Library. The West 7th Library will close on December 21st for renovation and expansion. The plan is to connect to an underutilized room next to the Library to create a technology center and to add public access computers in the hall outside the Library. (Thanks to the Ramsey County Library for the model.) The project is designed to make technology available to the community even if the Library is closed. The project is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2010.

Star Library. In a national rating of public libraries, the November Library Journal ranks the Saint Paul Public Library as one of America’s Star Libraries. Rankings are based on per capita circulation, library visits, program attendance and public computer use. Library Journal rated 7,268 public libraries; Saint Paul was one of four percent to receive either three, four, or five stars. We received three stars.

College Access. The Doorway at Sun Ray Library, a college and career resource center, is a collaboration with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, St. Paul Youth Services (SPYS), and the Minnesota Private College Council. A speaker series called “Doorway to Your Dreams” kicked off on Monday, November 16th. The series is designed to inspire youth to think about going to college and to succeed in their education and career choices. Thirty students and 5 adults from the Mnt. Airy Boys and Girls Club, SPYS, and Humboldt Jr. High attended to the first session.

Science Museum of Minnesota Comes to the Rice Street Library. On October 24th, the Science Museum of Minnesota opened a Collector’s Corner Neighborhood Trading Post at the Rice Street Library. This is the Science Museum’s second satellite trading post; the first is at the Washington County Library’ Woodbury branch. This partnership is important to our efforts to strengthen literacy among young people, in this case, science literacy.
Scott County Library – Vanessa Birdsey, Library Director
A number of technology projects were completed in November. We migrated our ILS, SirsiDynix Unicorn (Symphony), from a stand-alone server to a hosted solution (SaaS). Thanks to the Scott County Library technology staff, County I.T. staff, and SirsiDynix staff, the migration went smoothly, and the most issues have been successfully resolved. The ILS will be upgraded soon. We began using NCIP for ILL, and the Evanced Calendar went live.

The Scott County Library Board of Advisors completed a year-long process to create a Strategic Plan. In the end, rather than a traditional strategic plan, the Library Board of Advisors and library staff identified core principles and eight strategic priorities (based on PLA Service Objectives) that will provide staff with a decision making tool when it is necessary to choose among various good services and programs. The primary goal is to achieve a balance among customer needs and wants, library resources (including staff), customer service, technology, and library best practices. The Strategic Plan, Core Principles, and Strategic Priorities will be available on the Scott County Library website – www.scott.lib.mn.us.

Mary Freyberg, Scott County Law Librarian, has been working with judges, lawyers, and Court Administration to organize clinics for Pro Se litigants.

The project grew out of an observation that many pro se litigants arrived in family court without the correct documents or with no documents, frustrating all of the involved parties. Judge Hooten and Mary Freyberg collaborated to create a packet of the correct documents to be given to people when they get a court date.

The documents may also be found on the Scott County Law Library website. In the last few months Mary has organized workshops with local judges, lawyers, and Court Services. The workshops have been well attended by the litigants, and by the volunteers who donate their time and expertise. The following workshops have been offered recently, and they are planned to be repeated.

Unmarried Parents –Family Law issues: Walter Burk, an attorney from Central Minnesota Legal Services and the FATHER Project, discusses unmarried parents' family law issues. After his 45 minute presentation, he answers general unmarried parents' family law questions. Topics covered include Father's Adoption Registry, Recognition of Parentage, paternity, custody, parenting time and child support. Pamphlets about unmarried parents' family law issues and resources are provided afterwards.

“Do It Yourself Divorce Clinic”; The Law Library has offered this Clinic four times and hopes to continue to offer it several times a year. Registration is required. Each time it is offered there are more participants, with 18 participants and 5 attorneys at the last program.

The Volunteer Attorney Program of the SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES INC. (SMRLS) and the Scott County Law Library offer this free Divorce Clinic. This Divorce Clinic is designed for people that cannot afford to hire an attorney, have a low income, have no assets of significant value, including pension, own no real estate other than their home, if they have children, they and their spouse agree on custody it is unlikely that they and their spouse will have a court fight

At the Divorce Clinic, an attorney is available to explain the legal process and answer general questions. Participants are assisted in completing the divorce packet, serving their spouse, filing the papers with the court, and obtaining a final hearing date.

Legal Advice Clinic: Since July, the Scott County Law Library has offered Pro Bono Lawyer assistance to people who are representing themselves in a legal action in Scott County. The lawyers that assist are volunteers and do not represent the people seeking advice. The volunteer Lawyers give general information about legal issues, court process, practice and procedure. Thirty minute appointments can be scheduled starting on the first day of the month. The clinics are offered the second Monday of the month. Each clinic offered so far has had 100% participation.

Washington County Library – Patricia Conley, Director
Hugo Kiosk: A joint purchasing agreement between Carver and Washington Counties has been approved. Carver County, acting jointly for both counties, has issued necessary documents for the bid process. Bids must be submitted by December 30, 2009. Vendor visits are being scheduled for December 17, 2009. Therefore, actual installation will likely not take place until mid-February. The delay reflects the length of time needed to get the
contract through the State and local approval processes.

Interest is high in the pilot project, funded with LSTA grant funds from the State Library Services Division of the MN Department of Education. The media requests are frequent. The latest story appeared in the December 10, 2009, *Pioneer Press*. See: Washington County Library patrons will be able to access books through kiosk at Hugo City Hall beginning in February - TwinCities.com

**Law Library:** The Law Library staff has become an unofficial branch of the Washington County Library. Its collection now appears in the Library catalog. Library materials from throughout the system can now be requested for pick-up at the Law Library. Library cards are now required to check out the Law Library collection. Electronic collection management has arrived at the Law Library.

The Law Library Board of Trustees has approved the establishment of civil law clinics every other Monday afternoon at the Law Library. The main responsibility of the LL staff is to schedule client meetings for the volunteer lawyers who conduct the clinics. Eventually these clinics may also be held at county libraries throughout the county to provide greater access for citizens. The Law Library Board is considering a request for a criminal law clinic.

**Yellow Ribbon Network:** The County has established a committee to seek out opportunities for county participation in the Yellow Ribbon Network (YRN) serving military and their families. At their request the Library will be participating in finding ways to assist the YRN. The Library Management Team has created a subcommittee to work on ideas.

**Foreclosure Forums 2010:** In partnership with the Washington County HRA and the Minnesota Home Ownership Center, Washington County Library will host 6 foreclosure forums during the first six months of 2010 as follows:

- **Woodbury:** Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at Woodbury Central Park in the Valley Creek Room
- **Oakdale:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 at Oakdale Library from 11 – 12:30 a.m.
- **Cottage Grove:** Tuesday March 9, 2010 from 6 – 8 p.m.
- **Mahtomedi:** Saturday, April 10, 2010 at Wildwood library from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (includes time for set up, etc.)
- **Bayport:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 from 6 – 8 p.m.
- **Forest Lake:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at Hardwood Creek Library from 6 – 8 p.m. in the main meeting rooms off the main hall, not right in the library itself.

**State Legacy Amendment:** Amendment funding for MELSA is approximately $1.3 M in each of the next two state fiscal years. Of that amount 10% will be put into a statewide fund that will be spent through the regional library systems for a statewide project, e.g., a MN book festival; 40% will remain at the MELSA level for grants throughout the region focusing on topics to be determined by the MELSA board; and, 50% will be used for programs selected by the member libraries. Washington County Library will be eligible for approximately 8% of this latter amount, or about $55,000 per year.

Submitted by Patricia Conley, Metro-Area Public Libraries Representative

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**Technical Colleges**

*Pat Akerman, St. Cloud Technical College*

December 11, 2009

Dakota County Technical College – *Michael Kirby, Library Director*
In November we hired Trina Bolton, our new library technician. Mary Teske retired in June, so we had been short 0.7 FTE for several months.

Northland Community & Technical College - Thief River Falls Campus – *Cynthia Jorstad, Library Director*
I don't have a lot of news...but some TRF numbers I'm really pleased about:

My instructions numbers are up 69%, compared to fall of '08. This fall, I presented 27 sessions, compared to 16 last fall. I can't pinpoint any one thing to account for the increase, but I think it's a combination of outreach, PR and intra-departmental word of mouth. I'm delighted!! Three of those sessions were for high school students/instructors participating in the College in the High School program. Many of the smaller schools don't even have a librarian anymore, and I plan on increasing our 'connection' as the year progresses, and into next year.

Our gate count is up 6.25%, which matches our enrollment increase.

Our circ though ... wow ... it's up 30%. I suspect the circ increase does correlate to the increase in instruction sessions.

Other than that ... I am ecstatic about the semester break just around the corner! What a long, busy semester we've had!

Mesabi Range Community & Technical College – Laurel Chilcote, Library Director
Our ILL activity seems to be really good, but we are still boggled by the glitch in ALEPH that does not let a student CANCEL an ILL Request if s/he has no activity on their Library account. I know this is on the "fix list" but for now it means that many ILLs are being received that were Sent because they couldn't be Canceled.

Pine Technical College – Ron McGriff, Library Director
Nothing to report other than I believe Bill is sharing my just completed FY09 annual report.

St. Cloud Technical College – Patricia Akerman, Library Director
The MnSCU Board of Trustees recently voted to approve the SCTC mission change, making us a technical and community college. The next step in the process is having the name change approved, which will occur in January. We expect this change will bring even greater increase in library usage.

Our gate count and circulation stats have greatly increased from this time last year. Library presentations and reference requests are also up.

The library recently featured artwork by Robert McCoy, a St. Cloud local artist. A reception was held with very good attendance. Our plans are to feature other area artists in the future.

Submitted by Pat Akerman, Technical Colleges Representative

Private Colleges Report
Dan Gjelten, University of St. Thomas
December 11, 2009

Carleton College – Sam Demas, Library Director
We have re-configured our Library Technology Coordinator position to serve as Digital Archivist and Library Technology Coordinator. This position, for which we are currently recruiting, will provide leadership in stewarding the college's digital assets that have long-term historical importance.

During December, many staff are involved in attending and presenting at workshops with faculty on innovations in pedagogy, including “Looking to Learn: Visual Assignments Across the Curriculum,” and “Argument and Inquiry Seminars: Course and Assignment Considerations and Design.”

With the archives now merged with the library, planning has begun for a project to develop a records scheduling program for the college.
Carleton and St. Olaf are preparing for the biennial joint serials review, and are continuing to consolidate duplicate journal back runs to save space in the stacks of both schools.

**CLIC – Dan Gjelten, Library Director**
CLIC is beginning a strategic planning process and, after coming to the realization that few of the current directors of the CLIC libraries would be still serving in their positions in ten years, has met with a group of “next generation” library leaders. The conversation we had was energetic and positive, and focused on the kind of libraries that this group of future leaders would want to inherit from current directors. We’ll report fully on the results of this strategic planning in the coming months.

**College of Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University – Kathy Parker, Library Director**
Like academic libraries around the country, we are struggling to maintain lively and relevant collections and services in the light of flat or reduced budgets. We are working through cancellations of some standing orders, and have begun converting journal subscriptions in the sciences and social sciences to electronic-only just to meet inflationary expenses. I am very grateful for the state-wide support we get from Minitex as it really extends what we’re able to provide for students and faculty.

**College of Saint Scholastica – Kevin McGrew, Library Director**
St. Scholastica was recently chosen to participate in the Council of Independent College's *Information Fluency in the Disciplines* workshop in New Orleans in March. I will be attending along with our VPAA and two faculty members from the English/Languages Department.

**Concordia College, Moorhead – Sharon Hoverson, Library Director**
Librarians taught 126 information literacy classes in September and October, mostly to freshmen in their Inquiry Seminars. This is the third year of the new First year experience program where information literacy is embedded into each class. In addition, this year we implemented a new assessment survey to help us determine improvements or changes needed in this program.

The library has been asked by the Core Curriculum Director to submit a proposal that will incorporate information literacy components into the new core Capstone courses which will go into effect next year. If the proposal is accepted, this will provide a valuable bookend experience for all our graduates.

We are in the midst of the second annual Pay-it-Forward project. Three years ago a local bank gave the library a donation with the intent that we would likewise donate to a worthy cause in the future. Our cause is to raise money for a community person in need of help by having our campus community “vote” via a donation for their favorite art piece that our students submit for this project. This project not only celebrates our students’ art work, it also helps everyone get into the Christmas spirit.

**Northwestern University – Ruth McGuire, Library Director**
*Web* – The college is close to unveiling a new web page with a streamlined marketing approach to its use and content. Because of this change, the library will focus e-service delivery and access through the college’s internal portal and through LibGuides. We are just now in the process of setting up LibGuides and hope it will function well for us in this way.

*Archives* – Due to high use and increased disrepair, we are sending the college’s *Pilot Magazine*, which ran from the early- to mid- 1900’s to AreaSearch in Paynesville to be digitized. This project is of course being done to preserve the originals and enhance use by making content available and searchable digitally via ContentDM.

**Saint Catherine University – Carol Johnson, Library Director**
The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIC) has awarded St. Catherine University (as well as Marquette University, Catholic University, and the Catholic Research Resources Alliance) a “Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives” grant to support the Catholic Social Action Access Project. This proposal was one of 91 applications from which 14 were funded. SCU will be creating Encoded Archival Description and MARC records for the Ade Bethune Collection. The total amount of the grant is $92,000.

**University of Saint Thomas – Dan Gjelten, Library Director**
Construction will begin on a coffee shop in O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library as soon as classes are completed after
fall semester. The shop, which will be operated by Coffee Bene, a neighborhood independent coffee shop a block away from the library, should be open and serving coffee by the start of spring semester. UST Libraries will be acquiring Digital Commons as an institutional repository application and Serials Solutions’ SUMMONS as a federated discovery tool.

Submitted by Dan Gjelten, Private Colleges Representative

Multi-county, Multitype Library Systems Report
Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network
December 11, 2009

Metronet, St Paul – Ann Walker Smalley, Library Director

Activities and Programs
The MILI program for 2009-2010 is in Spring Lake Park (District 16), Chaska (District 112), and Minneapolis Public Schools.

72 teachers and media specialists are part of the program. Content for MILI is at http://metronetmili.pbworks.com/ and is available for anyone to use under a Creative Commons license.

New this year is a MILI Ning to connect teachers across districts through blogging and forum discussions.

The multitypes sponsored an Internet Café again at both MEMO and at MLA. The computers were always busy and we received many positive comments and thanks for the Cafés at each conference.

History Day @ your library was November 4 at the History Center. 80 people attended, including presenters. There were 20 different sessions for participants. Co-sponsored with MELSA. Most handouts available at http://mn.webjunction.org/09historyday

WebJunction is preparing a price quote for continuation of the WJMN contract for FY2011 and FY2012

Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange [SAMMIE] – Marshall – Robin Chaney, Library Director

The SAMMIE continues to emphasize the planning & support Teen Services for the Pioneerland-SAMMIE-Plum Creek Teen Co-op.

The Summer Reading program for Teens offered Express Yourself @ Your Library by providing hands on art exploration for Teens at seventeen public libraries. Each library hosted four hours of instruction in painting, drawing and sculpting. Feedback from the hosts, teens and the instructor indicate that Teens are not shy about expressing their art!

For Teen Read Week, participating libraries helped teens Get Sucked into Reading! with 3-D art work & glasses.

Northern Lights Library Network – Ruth Solie, Detroit Lakes Library Director

NLLN continues to support and develop the North Star Library Consortium, which is now available to schools and special libraries on a statewide basis. Currently 166 libraries participate in the Consortium. These represent 70 public school districts, a number of non-public schools, 2 tribal colleges, and 2 tribal early childhood programs.

The Consortium has applied for a 3rd Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) grant that would be used primarily for professional development related to information technology literacy as well as increasing the Consortium membership.

A January 24-25, 2010, workshop is scheduled in Alexandria for media center staff. The theme will be Real Learning for the Real World: Engaged Students and Teacher Librarians and will feature guest presenter, Georgia Media Specialist, Buffy Hamilton.

Erika Rux, Concordia College, Moorhead, and Ruth Solie attended the Internet Librarian Conference in Monterey and are exploring ways of implementing many of the lessons learned from the Conference.
The NLLN Professional Engagement fund is supporting the professional involvement of several librarians in the NLLN region who continue to contribute to the profession above and beyond their day-to-day employment. An example: Stacy Voeller, Minnesota State University Moorhead librarian, has been this year’s editor of ALA’s Cognotes, the newspaper of the ALA national conferences, and has used NLLN Professional Engagement Funds to help make this work possible financially.

NLLN in partnership with Minitex and the Tri-College Libraries of the Fargo-Moorhead area is again sponsoring the Library Teleconference series from the College of DuPage.

NLLN partnered with the Northwest Service Coop (Alice Hoftstad) and Minitex to present the fall media workshop in Thief River Falls.

**North Country Library Cooperative – Linda Wadman, Mountain Iron Library Director**

It appears the trend of cutting staff in school libraries continues this school year. Nashwauk-Keewatin High School cut their librarian entirely. She continues, however, to be the librarian of the public-access library operated on the same premises after school hours. This is problematic because the school is a participant in the regional automation system but there was no one to contact at the school.

Academic libraries in the NCLC region have been cutting library staff or their staff hours as well. It seems we may well see this continue if the current economy worsens. This has implications for participation in Minitex services as well.

One elementary school has expressed interest in the regional automation system citing specifically the need for interlibrary loan services and materials delivery. The inquirer was referred to Arrowhead Library System for specific information and also provided with information about the NLLN project even though it would not provide the ILL and delivery referenced in the inquiry.

The Iron Range Research Library is currently closed (as is the entire newly renamed Minnesota Discovery Center). Their items have been made non-requestable in the regional catalog, and they have made arrangements for the Arrowhead Library System to hold any of their currently circulated materials until such time as arrangements are made for their collection. This is a real loss to historians and genealogists as well as all Iron Range communities who availed themselves of the Research Library's services.

NCLC will begin using Constant Contact in an effort to get information out to members more quickly and reliably than the current e-mail use.

**Smile Report – Dayle Zelenka, Mankato Library Director**

I feel like a broken record saying this, but there is little to report from SMILE. Many programs that were put in place by Nancy are still going strong – for example, the American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour is still very popular. Last month, a crowd of 64 gathered at the South Central Service Cooperative to enjoy the program. Others, such as the newsletter, have been put on hiatus until further notice.

Predictably, the scholarships SMILE distributes for continuing education have been popular and well used this year.

Beyond that, I continue to learn more about the system daily, and examine ways in which we can successfully merge its functions with Traverse des Sioux Library System’s functions into a single organization. The Board, Advisory Council and I anxiously await the results and recommendations of the State audit.

**Central MN Libraries Exchange (CMLE) – Patricia Post, St Cloud Library Director**

CMLE continues through a period of transition. As an organization, we are scrutinizing services, staffing, and the future. We have used an employee time study, the results of a member needs assessment, and are in the midst of a regional delivery study. Many efficiencies around process, systems, and equipment have been utilized over the summer, and continue to happen. We are more fully utilizing our student help component around our interlibrary loan services, and packing of delivery bags. We continue to explore how students can help with other services.

Delivery to CMLE member libraries is based on collaborations, mainly with our two regional public library systems. Through this cooperation, over 30 schools pick up at ECRL branches, while almost 70 schools pick up at GRRL branch libraries. Almost 20 additional sites receive delivery to their door through the St. Cloud school
district interschool van. All of this would not be possible without the Last Mile Delivery Grant to SCSU, which completes our reach to Minitex, the Twin Cities, and the additional states within the Minitex region. Thanks to all for this cooperation with delivery. We use our colored nylon delivery bags to also send out Spanish newspapers, free posters, bookmarks and additional pieces like the recent PSEO piece that was offered through Minitex.

Other recent, notable activities include:

In September, CMLE began using more targeted listservs for its members. By creating lists specific to each type of library, we are able to better control the amount of email, and make it more specific to its audience. Members like this change, although there have been some technical issues within particularly, the K-12 schools. Some school server settings will not allow listserv messages to get through easily, which is unfortunate.

CMLE is part of the planning and implementation team for Central MN History Day at SCSU, which is an event for students, parents, and teachers working on History Day projects. CMLE’s special niche is offering a mechanism for students to order and receive the materials they need to do their projects. In order to do this, the media specialist in each participating school needs to be on the team with the teachers, which strengthens those relationships.

From our Member Needs Assessment, we see that that use of our backup reference service is down, while other demands are up. Our CMLE temp staff is testing AskMN, and we are also promoting AskMN to our K-12 schools. If our members feel served well by AskMN, CMLE will focus on other more pressing needs.

MLA and MEMO Conferences: Patricia Post participated in both conferences as part of a team of presenters doing Fast and Fun presentations, which take no more than 10 minutes per topic, and expose attendees to new ideas and topics.

CMLE Annual Meeting: In early November, 45 people turned out for this meeting in Pease, MN. CMLE staff offered four topics in forty minutes, including tips and tricks for dealing with filters, spam, and junk mail. This type of short topic overview format, is proving to be popular, and helps CMLE staff gauge interest in workshops that dig deeper into the subject. A dinner was enjoyed by all, and out featured author was Julie Kramer, author of Stalking Susan, which won the adult fiction Minnesota Book Award. A volunteer planning group laid the basic plans for the Spring Meeting, which will happen in April at the new St. Michael High School.

Activities and interest continue in the expansion and maintenance of the North Star Library Consortium. See the Northern Lights Library Network report for specific North Star activities. Patricia Post continues to work with Ruth Solie on the professional development activities of the Consortium.

SELCO/SELS Report – Michael Scott, Rochester Library Director

Preparation for the Seasonal and H1N1 Flu

SELCO launched an H1N1 Flu Resources page on the SELCO/SELS website on October 7, 2009 (http://www.selco.info/display/lr/H1N1+Flu+Resources) with information for local government officials and library staff, as well as information specific to library customers. It was demonstrated at the SELCO & SELS Advisory Committee Meetings in October and December 2009 and to the SELCO/SELS Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting in October 2009. The sight was created by Michael Scott, SELCO Assistant Director.

SELCO staff are reviewing internal procedures with a goal of a continuum of service despite potential increased absenteeism due to illness of staff and/or their family members. We are focusing on the areas of direct library support – automation/information services, delivery and ILL.

Preventative measures that require hands-on staff intervention will increase from current procedures to more frequent routines (Example: monthly to bi-weekly or weekly.)

Additional redundancy in training.

Review and possibly expand procedural documentation, including video segments.

We placed hand sanitizer dispensers and disinfecting wipes in each meeting room and are encouraging staff to clean hard surfaces at least once per week.
A representative from Olmsted County Public Health spoke at an All-Staff meeting about this pandemic, offering historical and scientific information and practical advice.

**Board & Library Director Orientations**
Orientation for new SELCO/SELS board members from September – November 2009 included orientations for new appointees from Chatfield Public Library, Lake City Public Library, LeRoy Public Library, and Rochester Public Library.

Orientations for new Public Library Directors included Cheryl Hill at Van Buren Public Library in Pine Island and Justin Padgitt at Cannon Falls Library.

**FY 2010 ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LIBRARY LEGACY GRANT**
The Minnesota Department of Education approved SELCO’s first quarter grant application for Arts and Cultural Heritage funding. The application proposed eight distinct projects including digitization, programming opportunities, funding for two libraries for specific projects, traveling literary displays, other community collaboration projects, a regional poetry contest and publishing project, as well as participation in a statewide Legacy project.

SELCO staff has worked with libraries and their arts and cultural heritage partners and have planned a series of county meetings to refine details for the projects in November and December 2009. Four county programs have been completed in November; seven programs are scheduled in December.

**E-Commerce**
On November 2, SELCO began accepting credit card payments. Online Library patrons may use the *My Account* section of the online catalog to pay fines and fees with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card. We are thrilled that Online Libraries can now offer the same convenience as other web-savvy enterprises. The first payments were made within hours of going live and, not surprising since many requests are made after library hours, so too are fines being paid late at night. This service is being provided as a Basic Service, at no additional Automation Fees for the Online Libraries.

**AquaBrowser**
After considerable worry that the programming needed to display library holdings for the complex structure of the SELCO consortium could not be accomplished, AquaBrowser came through and a beta version of the new catalog is being run through its paces by the members of the AquaBrowser Working Group.

Staff usability data will be collected from during the first part of November. If successful, the usability survey will be shared with library patrons. The AquaBrowser Working Group will review all of the suggestions at their December meeting.

SELCO hopes to launch the new online catalog in early 2010.

*Submitted by Ruth Solie, Director, Northern Lights Library Network*

**Public Libraries Report**
*Mary Lukkarila, Director, Cloquet Public Library*
*December 11, 2009*

**Cloquet Public Library – Mary Lukkarila, Library Director**
New lighting and other changes have been implemented to save on electrical costs. The estimate is that the library could save $3,600 in its electrical bills. The library’s foundation is paying for the new lighting and taking advantage of rebates from Minnesota Power. The other project funded by the foundation was the large screen televisions and blu-ray dvd players. The premier screening on the new equipment was a film called Alaska Far Away. There were over 100 people in attendance, including the producer who flew in from California for the screening.
Fergus Falls Public Library – Walt Dunlap, Library Director
The City Council continues its attempt to meet the space needs at Fergus Falls Public Library. The effort to roughly double the size of the 12,700 square foot, 1986 building, dates to a space needs assessment done by Ron McGriff in 1998. The plan has been to enlarge the current building and $140,000.00 was spent on property acquisition to make that possible. The current Council, however, is exploring other options including an all-new structure on other parcels of land. We are hoping strong local support, $120,000.00 of FFPL trust funds spent on an all-new roof this fall, and our expansion proposal being the least costly of six options might sway the Council’s decision. Local advocates of a proposed new hockey arena, with up to $7 million coming from city taxpayers, have not improved the Library’s position.

On a brighter note, the estate of a staunch Library supporter may mean a windfall for the Library, perhaps totaling close to $500,000.00, and a Friends of the Library wreath project, with decorations reflecting favorite books, brought the group $1,080.00 and some great holiday PR.

Northfield Public Library – Lynne Young, Library Director
Northfield Public Library had its annual model train display on the evening of Northfield’s Winter Walk. This display continues to grow. This year, more than 1200 people went through the 12,000 sq. ft. library in 3 hours to view the display!

The Northfield City Council officially put a library expansion in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2010-2014. The library expansion is the third of three large facilities projects the city needs to undertake and is the plan for construction to begin in 2014. Many decisions will have to be made for this to become a reality, but this is an important first step.

A fund-raising feasibility study will be held after the first of the year. Library Strategies has been hired to work with the library on this study.

North Mankato Taylor Library – Lucy Lowry, Library Director
North Mankato Taylor Library opened up with a new expansion on November 30th. It adds 60% to the size of the library. It includes a new teen area, a meeting room, and more seating areas.

Submitted by Mary Lukkarila, Public Libraries Representative