

March 2, 2011

To: Minitex Participating Libraries in Minnesota

From: Bill DeJohn, Director

Re: Budget update

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The Governor's budget calls for a 5% reduction each year for the 2012/2013 biennium in the Minitex and MnLINK appropriations (which total \$6,031,000). Higher Education Committee members of both parties are suggesting that budget reductions of 15% to 20% are likely without new revenues.

The options for reducing the budget either reduce service, decrease responsiveness, or could result in elimination of specific program(s). While the ultimate decisions have not been made, potential impacts of a 5% reduction could result in the following for Minitex and MnLINK, with far deeper impact on programs and services if there is a 15-20% reduction. These reductions will impact academic, public, school, and state government libraries:

- Reductions in staff capacity and hours of operations. *Impact: increased time frame for processing and fulfilling requests for loans and copies of journal articles and increased delivery time of 1-5 days for both processing and delivery. This could include eliminating some overnight delivery sites. Alternatively, Minitex could limit services and/or reduce the types of materials able to be shared in order to accommodate demand for service.*
- In light of contractual increases for ELM licensed content (research and information databases), resources would be reduced. *Impact: Reduced availability of databases and potential increased costs for libraries that need to subscribe to the lost content.*
- Reduction or elimination of programs to assist local library staff to be more effective and efficient in using Minitex to provide services to their users—e.g., webinars, conference programs, workshops, etc. *Impact: Lack of staff skills to fully exploit and promote Minitex services and realize benefit of state investment.*
- Reduction or elimination of subsidies supporting jointly licensed scholarly online resources (e.g., nursing and chemistry full text journals for higher education institutions). *Impact: academic libraries may be forced to drop their online subscriptions because of the loss of a Minitex subsidy.*
- Reduction in MnLINK Gateway support: *Impact: reduced payments to Gateway server libraries and reduced incentives for local libraries to support MnLINK service; freeze on any new libraries joining the MnLINK Gateway.*

Minitex leverages its state appropriation to provide savings in millions of dollars for higher education institutions and state government libraries. In FY10, Minitex provided cost avoidance for higher education institutions of over \$28 million dollars, in addition to providing over 113,000 book loans and photocopies from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Libraries to Minnesota libraries of all types. Thousands of additional loans and photocopies were shared by participating libraries through Minitex and directly with one another utilizing the Minitex Delivery System. Minitex also provided cost avoidance of millions of dollars for K12 schools and public libraries through its cooperative purchasing and group discount programs.