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MINITEX E-NEWS #92

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New Framework for the Electronic Library for Minnesota Approved

Last June, the Minitex Policy Advisory Council discussed the recent changes that had allowed users to access ELM databases through the ELM Portal without, necessarily, having to use a public library barcode. The MLA Legislative Committee suggested that more discussion should have been required before implementation of the change. The Council established a Subcommittee to discuss the issues involved and make recommendations to the Council. In September, the Subcommittee recommended that a framework be developed similar to the Criteria for Minitex Participation in Resource Sharing and to identify responsibilities and roles of various stakeholders in the use of ELM.

The Subcommittee met via conference call and recommended the attached policy to the MINITEX Policy Advisory Council on December 12, and it was approved by the Council. The statement outlines current methods of accessing ELM, responsibilities of staff of libraries using the ELM Portal or ELM resources, and those responsible for making administrative decisions. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education also has approved the statement, and we now share it with the Minnesota library community. It is available through the:

- Policy Advisory Council webpage:
<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/advisory/> and
- From the Director webpage: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/about/director/>

and a printed copy will be distributed to libraries through the usual Minitex delivery channels.

Questions about the Policy and Procedure should be directed to Bill DeJohn, Director, Minitex (w-dejo@umn.edu, 612-624-2839, 800-462-5348).

Discussions by the Council are included in the Council's June 6 and Sept.5, 2008, minutes found at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/advisory/meetings/>

Members of the subcommittee that developed the statement included: Ken Behringer, Dakota County Library; Micheal Bloomberg, Augsburg College; Pat Conley, Washington County Library; Emily Kissane, Minnesota Office of Higher Education; Wendy Pradt Lougee, University of Minnesota Libraries; Suzanne Miller, State Librarian; Mark Ranum, Plum Creek Library System; Ruth Solie, Northern Lights Library Network; and Bill DeJohn, Minitex. (Bill DeJohn)

AskMN Update

This past year was a good year for AskMN!

Since its launch in March, there have been over 2700 AskMN chat sessions. Eighty-three percent of the sessions were answered, meaning that patrons received the information or results they were seeking during the session. The other 17% of the total sessions were coded as needing follow up, meaning further research was needed to complete the patron's request after the chat session ended. The average session lasts about 17 minutes with almost half of questions being subject/research specific.

From the chat sessions and from responses by patrons, we've seen many benefits since AskMN began. We are able to provide Minnesota residents with quality research help from experienced librarians, all at the patrons' point-of-need. We continue to get great feedback from patrons telling us how AskMN has helped in their research needs, for example:

"This resource saved my life!! I was super anxious and feel much more confident that I will be able to access the information I need or access the help I need when I need it. This is a great service. Thank you."

Participating libraries are seeing benefits as well as they extend access to collections, resources, and other services to their patrons 24/7 and reach the distant learner/patron.

For more information, please go to the October and November/December 2008 issues of Reference Notes, which are available at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/refnotes/Default.aspx> (Carla Pfahl)

Minnesota Reflections Projects Needed

Applications for digitization projects with the Minnesota Digital Library have been coming in slowly this year. In the first six months of the fiscal year, 25 organizations applied for and completed or are working on projects. We have funding and time for more. If you want to talk about a project or are working on an application, please contact t Marian Rengel, MDL Outreach Coordinator (mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu).

The MDL pays for the digitization and providing access to the digital copies. You choose the objects to digitize and provide us with the information that we need about each object for the database. Our application form is available at <http://www.mndigital.org/>.

Apply now! Do not wait for the end of one of our application rounds of the project. We have committed only 46 percent of our FY 2008 funding. We will accept applications until the end of March, but your organization should get your application in soon to reserve your place in the queue.

In addition to digital copies of all of the images we digitize, organizations also have the opportunity to reach the public through having these images made freely available to the public through Minnesota Reflections (<http://reflections.mndigital.org/>), MDL's signature database of more than 32,000 digital objects provided by more than 100 organizations across Minnesota. (Marian Rengel)

Note from Bill DeJohn

Are you interested in getting copies of the new *Politics in Minnesota, the Directory* at a discounted price? I've been in contact with Sarah Janecek, publisher of *PIM*, to inquire whether MINITEX could obtain a discount for copies if we grouped participating libraries interested in purchasing copies of the Minnesota state government directory together for an order prior to their first press run.

As of Jan. 12, with initial responses from messages to local libraries, we have orders for over 26 copies, which brings us into the \$44.00 per copy price. The price is \$58.85 for a single copy plus \$6/book shipping & handling. Since we can use the MINITEX Delivery System to distribute the copies, we can save libraries the cost of shipping as well as provide the discounted rate:

- 1-25 copies @ \$49 each
- 26-50 copies @ \$44 each

If you're interested, please contact Cecelia Boone (c-boon@umn.edu, 612-624-6353, 800-462-5348) with your contact information and the number of copies that you'd like to order. (Bill DeJohn)

FYI, from South Dakota Library Association's Book Marks, Jan./Feb. 2009:

Fire Damages State Library Building

State officials are trying to determine how much damage was done to the State Library after an overnight fire occurred in the building's boiler room on Dec. 19.

The building, officially known as the McKay Building, is located a few blocks north of the state Capitol.

Joe Kafka, press secretary for Gov. Mike Rounds, says officials are not aware of any structural damage to the building at this time. Kafka says there is extensive smoke damage and officials are not sure if books, documents and resources may have been damaged.

The fire occurred on the library's first floor, which is under renovation. State Bureau of Administration Commissioner Jeff Bloomberg says workers had been using a saw to cut concrete and apparently sparks from the blade ignited cardboard lining used in the initial construction of the building.

The fire smoldered for some time and was discovered by an employee checking the building's boilers about midnight.

Pierre Deputy Fire Chief Ian Paul says the first floor was engulfed in smoke by the time firefighters arrived. He says crews had to break up the concrete to get to the fire.

Firefighters were on scene for about three hours. There were no injuries.

[State Librarian Dan Siebersma says it appears that damage from the fire was minimal. The Library was closed for one day after the fire, but services are back to normal.]

On the Road with MINITEX: Recent Trips

On Dec. 4, Virginia Dudley and Mark Wilhelmi, Bibliographic and Technical Services (BATS), visited the East Central Regional Library headquarters in Cambridge, MN. After the serious business of cataloging issues, automated library systems, technical services workflow, and the like, Virginia and Mark were fortified with delicious homemade pie made by Marilyn McGriff.

On Dec. 8, Sara Ring and Virginia Dudley, BATS, traveled to Pine City to visit the Learning Resource and Technology Center of Pine Technical College. They helped Pine Tech staff grapple with ILL stats and other topics and were rewarded with a tour that helped them understand the full nature of the college. The gunsmithing program is one of the few in the country.

On Dec. 10, Mark Wilhelmi, BATS, stopped by the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, MN, and got an update about the college and its library. He was impressed by the setting in a grove of towering red pines, by the building in the shape of a thunderbird, and by the light-filled and spacious library.

Over the last few months, Marian Rengel, Minnesota Digital Library, has visited with staff of the Grant County Historical Society in Elbow Lake, the Murray County Historical Society in Slayton, the Wright County Historical Society in Buffalo, and the Itasca County Historical Society in Grand Rapids. We discussed developing a digitization project with the MDL, collections to consider, work load, timelines, MDL contributions to the project (digitizing and access) and their contributions to the project (collection selection and metadata).

Upcoming Regional Library Conferences & Events

We would be happy to include information about more events of interest to library staff throughout the MINITEX region. Please contact Cecelia Boone (cboon@umn.edu, 612-624-6353, 800-462-5348) with information about your event.

For more information about the following events, see the MINITEX Calendar of Events at: <http://lists.minitex.umn.edu/forums/calendar.php>

For more information about more library-related events in the MINITEX region, see the:

WebJunction Minnesota Calendar of Events at:
<http://evanced.info/minnesota/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Information about and registration forms for currently scheduled MINITEX training sessions and webinars are available at the MINITEX Training & Conferences webpage: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/>

Remember, many of the MINITEX webinars are recorded, so you can access them at any time. See <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/archived.asp> for more information.

Jan. 13, "ELM Overview," webinar

Jan. 14, "What Is Metadata? A Very Basic Introduction," webinar

Jan. 16, "Gale K12 Resources and PowerSearch," webinar

Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, MINITEX Office Closed
Jan. 21, "Dublin Core for Beginners," webinar
Jan. 21, "EBSCO's Business Source Premier Basics," webinar
Jan. 21, "Discovering Collection in ELM," webinar
Jan. 23-27, ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver
Jan. 25-26, "Games & Gadgets" and "Taking your Destiny to a new level,"
Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN
Jan. 28, WebJunction's Webinar Virtual Town Hall: "Focus on Staff Training,"
webinar
Jan. 29, "Keeping Current with ProQuest Newsstand Complete," webinar
Jan. 30, "EBooks and NetLibrary," webinar
Feb. 2, "EBSCO's MasterFILE Premier Basics," webinar
Feb. 4, "OCLC WorldCat," webinar
Feb. 10, "ProQuest Newsstand Complete Advanced," webinar
Feb. 12, "EBSCO Academic Search Premier Advanced," webinar
Feb. 13, "Programming Through the Ages," teleconference
March 18-19, Midwest Library Technology Conference, Macalester College, St. Paul
March 25, Minnesota Library Day at the Legislature, St. Paul
April 3, "Diversity Beyond the Obvious," teleconference
April 16, "Health Reference Basics," teleconference