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It's Here! [MnKnows – Dig Deeper @ Your Library](http://www.mnknows.org)

We are excited to announce that the new website, [MnKnows – Dig Deeper @ Your Library](http://www.mnknows.org) (www.mnknows.org), is available to give Minnesotans one-stop access to five statewide library services: the MnLINK Gateway, the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), Minnesota Reflections, AskMN, and the Research Project Calculator. The resources included on this website function through the collaboration of Minnesota's libraries.

For more information about MnKnows (or, you can read it, Minnesota Knows, if you prefer), see pp. 4-5 of the current issue of the ***Minitex MESSENGER***:

- <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/messenger/2009/03March.pdf>

and more information will be posted to various listservs in the next week. We plan to provide MnKnows bookmarks in time for National Library Week (April 12-18), and we will have a MnKnows logo that libraries can download to their own websites if they choose to do so. Other promotional material will also be developed.

In addition to access through MnKnows, the five online services will continue to be available at their individual URLs:

- <http://www.mnlinkgateway.org>
- <http://www.elm4you.org>
- <http://reflections.mndigital.org/>
- <http://askmn.org>
- <http://rpc.elm4you.org/>

MEIR Task Force Reviews Proposals for Statewide Electronic Resources

Members of the Minitex Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force attended three day-long sessions, Monday-Wednesday of this week, to hear presentations from the 10 vendors that responded to the Request for Proposals for online resources for the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) and statewide electronic resources for North Dakota and South Dakota. The vendors presented information and answered questions about their RFP proposals, and Task Force members rated the resources against requirements included in the RFP. Trial access for Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota schools and libraries to the resources will continue through, at least, tomorrow (Friday, April 3).

The vendors are: Credo Reference, EBSCO, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Gale Group, H.W. Wilson, NewsBank, OCLC, ProQuest, Scholastic Inc, and World Book Inc.

The next step will be preparation of a report with recommendations to the funding partners: Minitex, Minnesota's State Library Services, North Dakota State Library, Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN), South Dakota State Library, and South Dakota Library Network (SDLN). Minitex Associate Director Mary Parker will draft the report in collaboration with Purchasing Services, a department of the University of Minnesota. The goal is to announce selection of the resources by mid-May. Selected resources may include individual or groups of resources that were proposed by vendors.

The selected resources are expected to be available at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1. (Mary Parker & Bill DeJohn)

Deadline Approaching for Responses to OCLC Record Use Policy Survey

Staff of Minitex-region libraries are invited to participate in an online survey designed to gather input from both OCLC members and non-members about the proposed OCLC Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat® Records. Results of the survey will be studied by the Review Board on Principles of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship, which was established by the OCLC Board of Trustees and the OCLC Members Council. The Board will consider the survey feedback as it prepares its recommendations for OCLC. Survey responses are due by next Wednesday, April 8.

The existing guidelines and proposed policy are available at:

- Guidelines:
<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/records/guidelines/default.htm>

- Proposed Policy: <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/catalog/policy/recordusepolicy.pdf>

The survey is available at the following site, where you will find instructions for its completion:

- https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=c0hILWPafv97EDbNiRXXjq_3d_3d

To protect the confidentiality of responses, all data will be collected, tabulated, and analyzed by Linray, an independent market research consultant. The Review Board will receive data in aggregate form only; individual respondents will not be identified by name or organization.

Questions about the survey's content may be addressed to reviewboard@oclc.org. As an alternative to the survey, the Review Board welcomes your feedback by e-mail or by posting comments at <http://community.oclc.org/reviewboard/>. More information about the proposed Policy and the survey is available in an article by Virginia Dudley in the new ***Minitex MESSENGER***, which is available at:

- <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/messenger/2009/03March.pdf> (Cecelia Boone)

Register for the Minitex Annual Interlibrary Loan Conference!

Marshall Breeding from Vanderbilt University and quality improvement consultant Ray Wilson from Indianapolis will be the principal speakers for the 18th Annual Minitex Interlibrary Loan Conference on May 19. The Conference, which will be held at the Continuing Education and Conference Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus, will also include a Minitex update by Bill DeJohn. Breeding's keynote address entitled "Next General Library Automation and Its Implications for Resource Sharing," will begin the day's activities. In the afternoon, Wilson, president of a consulting firm specializing in organization development and operation improvement, will provide a fast-paced session, "Seven Quality Improvement Tools for Your Workplace," which will discuss practical tools that will help you gather, analyze, and present data about your tasks and workplace. DeJohn will talk about recent resource sharing developments and trends in the Minitex region. Registration details and more information about the Conference are available on the Minitex website:

- <https://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/conferences/ill2009.aspx#registration>

Happy Birthday, AskMN!

March 24th marked the first anniversary of Minnesota's Statewide Cooperative Digital Reference Service, **AskMN: The Librarian Is In**. It has been an energetic year, to say the least. Since launching with eight founding libraries, we have added five more -- and additional libraries are expected to join later this spring.

We set out to create a cooperative network so libraries could contribute and participate more easily in an online reference service for the benefit of their communities. Many libraries cannot support a stand-alone virtual reference service, and we wanted a program that required limited

local staff commitment. We also created a flexible training schedule to better integrate libraries into the AskMN schedule with continuous support.

We see AskMN playing a vital role in helping Minnesota residents to meet their information needs wherever they are, whenever they need assistance through a visible, accessible Internet presence. Our intent was to create an online service for information and research help that would be available to Minnesota residents and students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When Minnesota librarians are not available to answer patron requests, QuestionPoint's 24/7 National Reference Cooperative helps fill in the gap to assure continuous, 'round-the-clock coverage.

Here is what a couple grateful patrons had to say recently after their chat sessions:

- "GREAT service to have ... especially on weekends (Saturday afternoon) when my academic library online chat wasn't available ... and it's a larger institution! THANK YOU Minnesota!!!"
- "Wow! I'm so glad someone was able to help me with my project! I love this."

The service's reach beyond individual library hours has proven to be a great benefit. We have found that about 55% of the requests to AskMN are coming when their library's doors are typically closed. In the one year of service, AskMN has taken in over 6100 questions!

For more information about AskMN's first year, see the March issue of *Reference Notes*, which will be available at:

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

ISO Interlibrary Loan Request Transfer between Aleph ILL & MnLINK Gateway VDX ILL

On Tuesday, March 31, Great River Regional Library and St. Cloud State University began to exchange requests using the ISO Interlibrary Loan Protocol between Aleph ILL and the MnLINK Gateway VDX ILL. They will be using their respective ILL management systems (VDX & Aleph) to send requests to each other using the ISO ILL protocol, which allows ILL messages to be exchanged between two disparate systems. If this works as we believe it will, the option will be rolled out to locations where it makes sense to use existing regional relationships to efficiently exchange requests. (Becky Ringwelski)

MnLINK Gateway Search for Facebook

Tuesday night, a MnLINK Gateway Search for Facebook became available to MnLINK Gateway users, with a new link placed in the left-hand navigation menu on the Gateway webpage (www.mnlinkgateway.org). So far, the site metric shows more than 17 users have added the application. These are probably existing MnLINK patrons, since the main access point into the application is on ZPortal. Contact Michael Berkowski (berk0081@umn.edu, 612-625-8736, 800-462-5348) if you'd like more information about the search.

On the Road with Minitex: Recent Trips

We'd like to share news about our trips around the Minitex region. We enjoy our travels around Minnesota and the Dakotas as they give us a chance to talk with staff members of our participating libraries and see what's happening at the grassroots level.

On March 17, Sara Ring and Mark Wilhelmi, Bibliographic and Technical Services (BATS), made site visits to St. John's University and Great River Regional Library. At St. John's, Mark and Sara met with Tess Kasling and other library staff to give them an update on changes coming with OCLC, Minitex, and libraries in the region. In addition, there was discussion of cataloging procedures and upcoming digitization projects, and the staff offered a lot of feedback about WorldCat Local, which they launched in Dec. 2008. At Great River Regional, Sara and Mark met with Mic Golden and Chris Getz. They discussed upcoming changes in Minitex's relationship with OCLC and talked about OCLC services—particularly, Bibliographic Notification and WorldCat Cataloging Partners. Mic and Chris also provided a tour of their brand new building which is quite spacious and full of light. The large, colorful children's area was particularly impressive.

There's more about these visits and pictures of both libraries on the BATS blog at:

- <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/minitex/bats/>.

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 (c-boon@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.

April 3-4, "Spotlight on Books Conference," Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge Resort, Grand Rapids, MN

April 3, "Diversity Beyond the Obvious," teleconference

April 3-4, "Minnesota Voices Online Unconference," Inn on Lake Superior, Duluth, MN

April 6, "EBooks & NetLibrary," webinar
 April 6, "Taking the Fear Out of Business Reference," webinar
 April 6, 8, 9, 27, 28, 29, 30, "Reference in the Electronic Age," workshop, Wyoming, Mountain Iron, Detroit Lakes, Rochester, Mankato, Redwood Falls, and St. Cloud, MN
 April 7, "Cataloging Basics: Description," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 April 9, "WiLS – Library Open Solutions Webinars," Spring 2009, webinar
 April 9, "Taking the Fear Out of Business Reference," webinar
 April 10, "Academic Search Premier, Advanced," webinar
 April 13, "ProQuest Newsstand Complete," webinar
 April 14, "WorldCat," webinar
 April 16, "WiLS – Library Open Solutions Webinars," Spring 2009, webinar
 April 16, "Health Reference Basics," teleconference
 April 20, "EBSCO's Business Source Premier Basics," webinar
 April 21, "Introduction to the Connexion Client," Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD
 April 21, "Cataloging Basics: Access," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 April 22, "Introduction to the Connexion Client," Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND
 April 22, "What is Copy Cataloging and How Do I Do It?" Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD
 April 23, "Cataloging Using OCLC's Connexion Browser," Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD
 April 23, "Web Page Creators: Free and of Cost and Code," webinar
 April 23, "What is Copy Cataloging and How Do I Do It," Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND
 April 24, "Cataloging Using OCLC's Connexion Browser," Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND
 April 28, "Metadata Practices for Digital Collections," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 April 28, "EBooks & NetLibrary," webinar
 April 29, "Cataloging Basics: Subject Access," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 April 29, "From Desk to Web: Creating Safety Nets in the Online Library," Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 May 1, ARLD Day, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN
 May 4, "Local Holdings Maintenance (Part 1)," webinar
 May 4, "Taking the Fear Out of Business Reference," webinar
 May 5, "Academic Search Premier Advanced," webinar
 May 5, "Tools for Original Cataloging with Connexion," webinar
 May 5, "Enhancing Quality Staff," Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis
 May 6, "Cataloging Basics: Description," Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo
 May 7, "Cataloging Basics: Access," Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo
 May 7, "Taking the Fear Out of Business Reference," webinar
 May 8, "Authority Control," Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo
 May 11, "Local Holdings Maintenance (Part 2)," webinar
 May 13, "From Pixels to Projects: An Introduction," Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 May 14, "Developing Funding and Managing Digital Projects," webinar
 May 18, "Local Holdings Maintenance (Part 3)," webinar
 May 18, "Cataloging Basics; Subject Access," Library, North Dakota State University, Fargo
 May 18, "Digital Imaging Guidelines in Practice," College of Visual Arts, St. Paul
 May 19, "Authority Control," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 May 19, 18th Annual Minitex Interlibrary Loan Conference, Continuing Education & Conference Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
 May 20, "Cataloging Basics: Description," Siouxland Libraries, Sioux Falls, SD
 May 21, "Cataloging Basics: Access," Siouxland Libraries, Sioux Falls, SD
 May 21, "Copyright for Digital Materials," webinar

May 25, Memorial Day, Minitex Office Closed

May 26, "Imaging Quality Control and Digital Infrastructure," webinar

May 27, "From Pixels to Projects, An Introduction," State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck

June 9, "Metadata for Digital Projects," webinar

June 11, "Authority Control," Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD