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In this issue:

- **Statewide Electronic Resources Announced for Minitex-Region Libraries & Their Users**
- **Update on Minitex and MnLINK Budgets**
- **Minitex Policy Advisory Council Meets Tomorrow**
- **MDL's 7th Annual Meeting Set for Next Monday**
- **MDL Announces New Phase of Digitization Work – Apply now!**
- **Upper Midwest Ex Libris User Group Set for Oct. 26-27**
- **Upcoming Regional Library Conferences & Events**

Statewide Electronic Resources Announced for Minitex-Region Libraries & Their Users

On behalf of Minnesota's State Library Services, Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN), the North Dakota State Library, South Dakota Library Network (SDLN), the South Dakota State Library, and itself, Minitex is pleased to announce our joint, 3-state participation in licensing the databases and database packages recommended by the Minitex Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force as a result of the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued in 2008-2009. These partners realize the importance of statewide access to a common suite of databases to the libraries and school media centers within and among the three states.

In coordination with Elaine Kelash, Buyer, University of Minnesota Purchasing, Minitex will finalize license agreements with the following vendors:

- EBSCO (for all three states)
- Gale Group (for all three states)
- ProQuest (separate databases for Minnesota and North Dakota)
- OCLC FirstSearch (for all three states)
- Encyclopaedia Britannica (for Minnesota and North Dakota)

A full list of the resources is available in an announcement on the ELM Blog:
http://blog.lib.umn.edu/minitex/elm/2009/06/new_elm_databases_announced.html

These resources will be available beginning July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012. These databases/resources were available at the RFP Trials website during February - April.

Additional information will follow over the next few weeks as we work with the vendors to set up links and so on. We understand the work and time these changes may take to implement in your libraries and schools and will provide needed information as quickly as possible.

The Minitex CPERS staff, Rita Baladad, Tim Peters, and Anne Hatinen, and the vendors' sales teams will work closely with you as some of you transition between vendor products. If you are a current subscriber to any of these resources, they will work with you to prorate your subscriptions and credit your accounts. Similarly, the Minitex Reference Services staff, Jennifer Hootman, Matt Lee, Carla Steinberg Pfahl, and Beth Staats, and vendors' staff will work to provide training for you and your colleagues on the resources we license.

On behalf of Minitex and the libraries and school media centers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, thank you to the MEIR Task Force members and their institutions for participating in the RFP process. Their dedication and commitment to the process and their expertise in writing and evaluating the RFP responses were awesome! (Please see the MEIR Task Force website for a list of the members:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/meir/>) (Mary Parker)

Update on Minitex and MnLINK Budgets

The final budget for Minitex and MnLINK from the Minnesota Legislature, which adjourned in May, was to maintain both Minitex and MnLINK at their current appropriation levels. The Governor did sign the Higher Education bill, which included those appropriations. However, the Governor has announced he will unallocate parts of the budget starting July 1, 2009. My understanding is that we may know more information about the unallocations prior to July 1 for planning purposes – but, at this point, we are not sure of our appropriations levels for FY10 and FY11.

An unexpected, and positive development, during the legislative session, was that \$500,000 from the Cultural Heritage Legacy Amendment was appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society for a digital library project and that the funding is to be shared with Minitex. We don't know yet how this is going to be administered, but we will be meeting with the Minnesota Historical Society for discussions. The language in the bill stated:

"Digital Library. \$500,000 in 2010 is appropriated for a digital library project to preserve, digitize, and share Minnesota images, documents, and

historic materials. The Minnesota Historical Society shall cooperate with the MINITEX system and shall jointly share this appropriation for these purposes. (Bill DeJohn)

Minitex Policy Advisory Council Meets Tomorrow

The Minitex Policy Advisory Council will hold its last meeting of FY09 tomorrow (Friday, June 5) in the Minitex Offices, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. A wide range of topics, including ELM, the MnLINK Gateway, the Minitex and MnLINK budgets, and other topics, are on the agenda for the meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m. As always, guests are welcome. Contact Cecelia Boone (c-boon@umn.edu, 612-624-6353, 800-462-5348) for more information.

MDL's 7th Annual Meeting Set for Next Monday

Plans are completed for the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL). MDL and the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) are working together to offer the session, which is scheduled for June 8 at the Gorecki Center at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and sessions begin at 9 a.m. There will be no fee charged to attend the conference, but prior registration is required.

Morning break-out sessions will include presentations about work on digital collections throughout Minnesota. Topics include

- Digitizing audio and video projects, outsourcing, and creating digital images of three-dimensional objects.
- Collaboration projects across the state – organizations working together to create digital collections to share with the public
- "Nuts and bolts" of digitization, a session where you can ask your questions about your projects
- The evolving Minnesota Digital Library, which is working on projects with Flickr Commons, a tagging initiative, training in Pachyderm, and more.

The afternoon will be dedicated to information and discussions on the preservation of digital collections. John Kunze, California Digital Library, will discuss digital preservation issues in that statewide initiative. In the break-out sessions Cal Lee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will share his work and ideas about preserving digital collections, particularly personal, individual collections. Bob Horton, MHS, will discuss the lessons his team has learned from a state-wide survey of preservation needs.

New this year will be a conference room where people can get one-on-one answers throughout the day to questions on eight topics related to digitizing and the work of the Minnesota Digital Library. People will be available to answer questions about: scanning, metadata, MDL initiatives, CONTENTdm, Pachyderm, preserving collections, searching in Minnesota Reflections, and our Minnesota Reflections user assessment project.

Participants may linger after the last breakout session to share their ideas on the future of the Minnesota Digital Library. We are interested in your ideas on projects that we could conduct, initiatives we could support, and funding we could apply for. Linger and talk with our guest speakers as well.

Thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society, the annual meeting is free this year. Registration is required. Go to <http://www.mndigital.org/> to learn more and to find the link to registration materials. Funding for this meeting is provided by the Minnesota Historical Society through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

MDL is supported through annual grants provided by the federal Library Services and Technology Act through IMLS and State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education. Learn more at <http://www.mndigital.org>. (Marian Rengel)

MDL Announces New Phase of Digitization Work – Apply now!

The Minnesota Digital Library announces Phase 6 of digitization work with organizations across the state. Through a Library Services and Technology Act grant, MDL continues to work with Minnesota organizations to digitize their collections and to provide access to the digital images through Minnesota Reflections, our database of digital copies of primary resources from across Minnesota. The LSTA grant is provided through State Library Services, a unit of the Minnesota Department of Education,

Applications forms are available at the Minnesota Digital Library homepage: <http://www.mndigital.org>. Please review both the Call for Projects and the application form.

MDL continues to be most interested in digitizing photographs, negatives, letters, journals, maps and plat books. We also provide funding for transcripts. For project materials that MDL staff digitizes, organizations must send/deliver their originals to either the Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis or to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

We also accept applications for projects that organizations have already digitized – provided that the work was done to MDL standards (see

<http://www.mndigital.org/digitizing/standards/>). Talk with Marian Rengel, Outreach Coordinator, about this type of project if you are interested.

Apply early! Once MDL has approved an application, we will work with you to schedule a good time to digitize the project. You may submit applications between now and March 26, 2010, or until we have committed all of our digitization funding. Early applications will increase your opportunity to work with the Minnesota Digital Library on a digitization project. .

For more information, contact the Minnesota Digital Library Outreach Coordinator, Marian Rengel, at St. Cloud State University, mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu, 320 308-5625.

Upper Midwest Ex Libris User Group Set for Oct. 26-27

Planning is underway for the Upper Midwest Regional Ex Libris Users Group meeting for Aleph and Voyager users in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. This meeting will be held on Oct. 26-27 in St. Paul.

Proposals for presentations and presentation topics are welcome. If you would like to present a session, or if you have ideas for topics, please contact one of the planning group members:

- Becky Ringwelski e-ring@umn.edu
- Ellen Kotrba ellen.kotrba@ndus.edu
- Linda Allbee linda.allbee@ndus.edu
- Mary Ann Greenwald mary.greenwald@mnsu.edu
- Betsy Friesen b-frie@umn.edu
- Nina Mentzel nmentzel@sdl.in.net
- Carol Nelson c-nels@umn.edu

Registration and additional information will be sent out as the date approaches.

For more information and periodic updates, go to:

<https://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/conferences/exLibris2009.aspx>

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.

June 8, 7th Annual Minnesota Digital Library Meeting, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

June 8, "Minnesota Public Library Budget Shortfalls: a Conversation," webinar

June 9, "Metadata for Digital Projects," webinar

June 9, "Designing an Online Reference Service: One Size Does Not Fit All," webinar

June 12, "Designing an Online Reference Service: One Size Does Not Fit All," webinar

June 15, "Taking the Fear Out of Business Reference," webinar

June 17, "Lunch for Libraries," Macalester College, St. Paul

June 17, "Taking the Fear out of Business Reference," webinar

June 18, " Designing an Online Reference Service: One Size Does Not Fit All," webinar

July 4, Independence Day, Minitex Office Closed

July 10-15, ALA 2009 Annual Conference, Chicago

July 28-29, WILSWorld, Madison, WI

Aug. 4-5, 2009 Branch Out Conference, Willmar, MN