



*A Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher  
Education and the University of Minnesota*

## **Minitex E-NEWS #101**

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### **Reminder: Ex Libris & CONTENTdm User Groups Share Last Week in October**

The Upper Midwest User Group meetings for Ex Libris and CONTENTdm will meet in St. Paul and Madison, WI, during the last week in October. See the links for these sessions for more information:

#### **Upper Midwest Ex Libris User Group, Oct. 26-27**

More than 20 sessions on topics ranging from Ex Libris' new products and updates, to cataloging, to how to handle specific tasks using the Aleph ILS will be discussed at the Upper Midwest Ex Libris User Group meeting at the Wellstone Center's Neighborhood House, 179 Robie St. E., St. Paul, Oct. 26-27. The keynote presentation, "Building the URM: A Blueprint for Next-Generation Library Services," will be provided by Susan Pastore, Ex Libris/VP of Sales-North America.

For a full schedule of sessions and registration information, see:

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

The registration fees are \$50 for both days, \$25 for Monday only, \$35 for Tuesday only. **The registration deadline is this Wednesday, Oct. 21.**

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### **Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting, Oct. 29-30**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting, which will be held at the Pyle Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Oct. 29-30. For registration, a preliminary agenda, hotel information and more, go to:

[http://www.wils.wisc.edu/events/MWcontdm\\_09.html](http://www.wils.wisc.edu/events/MWcontdm_09.html) Note: the links to online registration and accommodations are located on the right side of the webpage.

**The deadline for registration for this session is this Friday, Oct. 23.**

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### **Upgrades for the MnLINK Gateway**

Both library staff and end-users are seeing improvements to the MnLINK Gateway after MnLINK and OCLC staff completed an upgrade to Version 4.1 of the supporting software during the first week of October. The user interface has a new look and feel (although the basic functionality remains the same), and staff benefit from changes designed to improve the ease of use. Many of the changes to the interface were made as direct results of feedback that we've received from Gateway users. Mini-tutorials about the site's new and improved features are available in the Help section of the new MnLINK Gateway. Webinars introducing staff to the user interface and interlibrary loan system changes were provided to MnLINK Gateway sites prior to the upgrade. (Becky Ringwelski)

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### **Statistics Show Increasing Use of the MnKnows Website**

To help spread the word about the MnKnows website, which provides one-stop access to the MnLINK Gateway, ELM, Minnesota Reflections, AskMN, and the Research Project Calculator, Minitex is funding announcements and website advertisements on KNOW-FM and the other news stations of Minnesota Public Radio. The announcements and ads began Sept. 1 and will run through the end of October. Using our website statistics, we have been able to track increasing numbers of pageviews of the MnKnows site -- and see which other websites refer the greatest number of web searchers to MnKnows (<http://mnknows.org>).

The top referring sites have been consistent through the seven weeks of the campaign to date. Two Traverse des Sioux Library websites have consistently led the list of referring sites, with the sites of the Minnesota State Law Library, Minnesota Public Radio, Ramsey County Library, Cloquet Public Library, North Mankato Public Library, and the Fergus Falls Public Library consistently providing the next tier of referrals.

We've seen the number of MnKnows pageviews more than double since early September. While we can't tease out how much of the increase is due to use by students with the new school year and how much is due to the MPR announcements and other factors, it has been interesting to track the increase.

We will consider additional public awareness campaigns of this type in the future as a way to highlight these Minnesota statewide library services. (Cecelia Boone)

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## **It Was Good to See You!**

The Minitex Director and staff enjoyed the opportunity to talk with staff from Minitex participating libraries in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota during the state library association meetings in Dickinson, Aberdeen, and St. Cloud in recent weeks. Thanks for taking the time to stop by our booths and for sharing your ideas with us!

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## **NEWS FROM BILL DEJOHN**

### **Minnesota Libraries: Please Give Me Feedback on Learning Express Library!**

I've received positive reports from Minnesota public libraries about Learning Express Library and am interested in getting feedback from staff of Minnesota libraries that serve secondary and higher education students and the general public. For those of you who do not subscribe to the product at this time, I would appreciate it if you would look at a trial site and send me your comments ([w-dejo@umn.edu](mailto:w-dejo@umn.edu), 612-624-2839, 800-462-5348) about the usefulness of having this product available to your community. I believe there could be many non-library organizations that would promote this resource to their members, and it may be a plus for all libraries.

Learning Express Library appears to have courses and tests (in English and Spanish) that are useful for the K12, college, and general communities. I suspect that it would be of particular interest to workforce centers and to people who are unemployed and need to take some exams as they apply for new positions. See my comments and information about a test site on the **From the Director** page of the Minitex website: (<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/about/director/>)

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## **Info. on Grants Available to MDL Participants**

The Minnesota Digital Library is working closely with the Minnesota Historical Society, a principle MDL partner, on digitization projects under the Minnesota History Legacy Grants. These grants are available thanks to funding provided through the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, which was approved in 2008.

MHS grant guidelines (see bottom of page at <http://www.mnhs.org/about/grants/legacy/index.htm>) recommend that organizations follow MDL standards and best practices when digitizing. They also recommend that organizations rely on the MDL's Minnesota Reflections online database to provide access to collections digitized with legacy funding.

Marian Rengel, MDL Outreach Coordinator, has worked closely with MHS staff in drafting digitization guidelines. In turn, MHS staff are referring digitization questions to Rengel. As the MDL's digital project planner, Rengel is happy to discuss digitization projects with organizations and how they can work with and through MHS legacy grant processes.

Rengel has joined the MHS team conducting workshops across Minnesota to inform people about the legacy grants and how to apply for them. The in-person sessions and webinars that have been conducted so far have been heavily attended. Interest is high. (Workshop schedule available at <http://www.mnhs.org/about/grants/legacy/training.htm>).

MDL is also moving forward with digitization projects using Library Services and Technology Act grant funding from the State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education. Application materials are available on the MDL website: <http://www.mndigital.org>. Organizations interested in a digitization project for this year should apply early. Projects accepted in Round 1, which ended Sept. 30, will spend nearly one-third of this year's funding.

Anyone interested in working with the Minnesota Digital Library on digitization projects should contact Marian Rengel ([mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu), 320-308-5625). (Marian Rengel)

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## **Upcoming 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 ([boon@umn.edu](mailto: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.

Oct. 20, "Realizing Our Broadband Future," webinar  
Oct. 20, 2009 Fall MnIUG Conference, Northwestern College, St. Paul, MN  
Oct. 20, MN Digital Library & MN Historical Society Workshop, Preston Historical Society, Preston, MN  
Oct. 21, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 1," webinar  
Oct. 22, "Connexion Browser Module 3, Basic Editing and Record Processing," webinar  
Oct. 22, "Using Social Networking Sites for Research," MN Chapter, Special Libraries Association, Donaldson Company, Bloomington, MN  
Oct. 23, "CatExpress," webinar  
Oct. 23, "ELM Databases for Grades 9-12," webinar  
Oct. 26-27, Upper Midwest Ex Libris Users Group, Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center, St. Paul, MN  
Oct. 27, "ELM Databases for Grades 6-9," webinar  
Oct. 27, MN Digital Library & MN Historical Society Workshop, Minnesota Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN  
Oct. 27, "Minnesota's Data Practices Law: A Look into the Future," MN Coalition on Government Information, Midtown Commons, St. Paul, MN  
Oct. 28, "Statewide E-rates Workshop," webinar, SOCRATES (South Central Regional Area Telecommunications System)  
Oct. 28, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 2," webinar  
Oct. 28, 2009 MnPALS User Group, Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center, St. Paul, MN  
Oct. 29, "MLA's Evening of 'Read Dating,'" 1101 Washington Ave S. Minneapolis  
Oct. 29-30, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting, Pyle Center, Madison, WI  
Oct. 29, MLA's Evening of "Read Dating," 1101 Washington Ave S. Minneapolis, MN  
Nov. 3, "Realizing Our Broadband Future," webinar  
Nov. 3, "Imagine, Program, Share: Library Programming with Scratch," Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
Nov. 4, "History Day @ Your Library,"  
<http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/AnnualTheme.htm>  
Nov. 4, "Connexion Client Module 1: WorldCat, MARC, and Client Basics," webinar  
Nov. 5, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 1," webinar

Nov. 5, 2010 Library Services and Technology Act Competitive Grant Workshop, MN  
Dept. of Education, Roseville, MN  
Nov. 9, "CatExpress," webinar  
Nov. 10, 2010 Library Services and Technology Act Competitive Grant Workshop,  
MN Dept. of Education, Roseville, MN  
Nov. 11, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 3," webinar  
Nov. 12, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 2," webinar  
Nov. 12, "Connexion Client Module 2, Basic Searching," webinar  
Nov. 13, "ELM Databases for Grades K-5," webinar  
Nov. 18, "Realizing Our Broadband Future," webinar  
Nov. 19, "Local Holdings Maintenance, Part 3," webinar  
Nov. 26-27, Thanksgiving Holiday, Minitex Office closed  
Dec. 2, "Imagine, Program, and Share: Library Programming with Scratch," Wilson  
Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
Dec. 3, "CatExpress," webinar  
Dec. 9, "Connexion Client Module 3: Basic Editing and Record Processing," webinar  
Dec. 24, Christmas Holiday, Minitex Office closed  
Jan. 1, New Years Day Holiday, Minitex Office closed