



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

# MESSENGER

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## Minitex Annual Interlibrary Loan Conference Set for May 19

Marshall Breeding from Vanderbilt University and quality improvement consultant Ray Wilson from Indianapolis will be the principal speakers during 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 firm of consultants specializing in organizational development and operational 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> A conference brochure has been distributed.

## Library Technology Conference Draws Over 350

Library Technology Conference 2009 drew more than 350 librarians and library staff from over 100 public, academic, K12, and other library organizations in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio for two days of learning and networking in mid-March. Eric Lease Morgan, University of Notre Dame, and Stacey Greenwell, University of Kentucky, were the keynote speakers for the Conference, which was held at Macalester College in St. Paul.

Greenwell, who heads the Information Commons at Kentucky's William T. Young Library, spoke Wednesday morning, suggesting how the University of Kentucky experience can provide information for other libraries: "Applying the Information Commons Concept in Your Library." Morgan, a frequent national speaker and author on library technology issues, provided Wednesday afternoon's keynote, "Technology Trends and Libraries: So Many Opportunities."

More than 45 concurrent sessions presented by conference participants provided information on many technology-related topics. Conference proceedings will be available on the conference website:

<http://www.macalester.edu/library/libtechconference/index.html>

Watch for session reports from Minitex staff who attended the Conference in the March 2009 issue of *Reference Notes*, which is distributed in print and is available on the Minitex website at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/refnotes/Default.aspx>

The Conference was the second session focused on library technology issues to be organized by a volunteer group of librarians from Minnesota and Iowa. Conference Chair Ron Joslin from Macalester College coordinated the work of the 18-person group, which included Ron's Macalester colleagues: Jacki Betsworth, Katy Gabrio, Ellen Holt-Werle, and Johan Oberg; Lynne Beck, Julie Kelly, Peter Kirlew, and Scott Spicer, University of Minnesota Libraries; Deborah Kloiber, College of St. Catherine; Jeanine Gatzke, Concordia University, St. Paul; Sheryl Bissen, Grinnell College; Ben Trapskin, Hennepin County (MN) Library; Marie Harms, State Library of Iowa; Ellen George, St. Louis Park (MN) Public Schools; Louise Alcorn, West Des Moines Public Library; Michael Dargan, Waterloo/Cedar Falls (IA) Public Library; and Mary Parker, Minitex.

## New Framework for the ELM Approved



A framework document that outlines the current methods of access to Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), the responsibilities of staff of libraries using the ELM Portal or ELM resources, and those responsible for making administrative decisions has been prepared at the request of the Minitex Policy Advisory Council.

The document is available at:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/committees/advisory/elm/> or

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/about/director/>

Last June, the Policy Advisory Council discussed changes made earlier in the year that had allowed users with identifiably Minnesota-based computers to access ELM databases through the ELM Portal ([elm4you.org](http://elm4you.org)) 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 Policy Advisory Council established a subcommittee to discuss the issues involved and make recommendations to the Council. In September, the Subcommittee recommended that a framework, similar to the Criteria for Minitex Participation in Resource Sharing, be developed to identify the responsibilities and roles of various stakeholders in the use of ELM.

The subcommittee met via conference call and drafted a policy statement that it presented to MINITEX Policy Advisory Council on Dec. 12. The statement was approved by the Council and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

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

Discussions by the Policy Advisory 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.

## Work on the RFP for Statewide Electronic Resources Continues Apace

By *Mary Parker*

Over the past few weeks, school media centers and libraries in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota have been encouraged to open trial access to their staff and end users for the electronic resources submitted in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the University of Minnesota on behalf of Minitex. Trial access to these resources will be available through at least April 3, 2009.

The proposed electronic resources are listed at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/exclude/rfp/> Information about trial access, names of products, and links to vendor/product information are available.

Many Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota library staff and end users completed and submitted a feedback form for each of the resources they examined during the trial period. The Minitex Electronic Information Resources (MEIR) Task Force incorporated this feedback into its ratings during the evaluation process, which was held March 30-April 1.

During these three days, RFP respondents presented information and answered questions about the products proposed in their responses. MEIR Task Force members, then, rated the resources against requirements detailed in the RFP.

After the vendor presentations, Mary Parker, in collaboration with University Purchasing, will prepare a report with recommendations for 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).

While vendors may have submitted resource "packages" for consideration, contracts may be awarded for individual products or for complete packages as offered. Our goal is to announce the selection of resources by mid-May.

## Minitex Endorses ICOLC Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Consortial Licenses

Minitex has joined 86 other consortia from around the world in endorsing the ICOLC Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Consortial Licenses. Written by the International Coalition of Library Consortia, the document has two purposes:

- To help publishers and other content providers (from whom libraries license electronic information resources) better understand how the current financial crisis affects the worldwide information community.
- To suggest a range of approaches that participating consortia believe are in the best interests of libraries and the providers of information services.

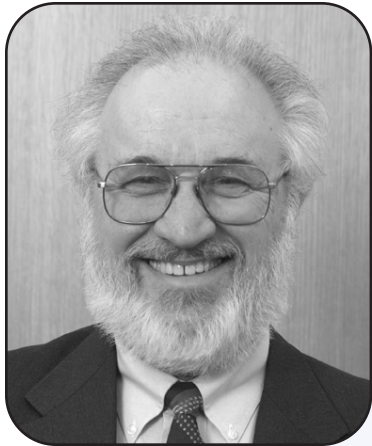
To read the statement, go to

<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolc-economic-crisis-0109.htm>.

A statement dealing with some of the same issues has been approved by the Association for Research Libraries: [The Global Economic Crisis and its Effect on Publishing and Library Subscriptions](http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement-2009.pdf), <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement-2009.pdf>

## Time for a Change: MINITEX Library Information Network to Minitex and a new one, MnKnows

By *Bill DeJohn*



*Bill DeJohn*

Spring is here and, along with great weather, it's bringing the transition to the new version of our name:

**Minitex**  
(**capital M, followed by lower case, and no "Library Information Network"**)

Last year, we contracted with Riley Hayes, a Twin Cities marketing firm, to help us improve our communications with our participants and to advise us on how to improve communications about the new programs that we have undertaken and incorporated into the Minitex services program over the past several years.

Their first recommendation was that we simplify the Minitex logo and drop the words "Library Information Network" from the official name since the majority of our library participants call us simply Minitex or MINITEX in their communications. And, after nearly 40 years, why not just use what people have called us? Using the single word with a fresh, new font and color combination will provide added interest in our print and online communications.

That decision led to adoption of a new logo and a more descriptive tag line, both of which have been approved by the Minitex Policy Advisory Council and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The formatting of the name **and the new logo** will be launched over the coming months, and we will be changing our website. The new name and two versions of the new logo are:

**Minitex**  
DEDICATION. EXPLORATION. INNOVATION.

*An Information and Resource Sharing Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries*

**Minitex**  
DEDICATION.  
EXPLORATION.  
INNOVATION.

The program affiliation statement, "An Information and Resource Sharing Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries," expands upon our previous statement, acknowledging our relationship with the Office of Higher Education and our status as a division of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

We've had both of these relationships for years, but we thought it would be useful to point them out. Particularly, *fyi*, our status within the University Libraries is an important factor in our resource sharing program – being a part of the University Libraries means that we are able to provide photocopies from the University Libraries' collections to fill interlibrary loan requests in compliance with the copyright law.

(For your information, our identifier in Minnesota legislative documents is "Minitex Library Services" – sometimes "System" is used.)

The marketing firm's other recommendation was to create a portal that would provide a single point of access for the MnLINK Gateway, ELM, Minnesota Reflections, AskMN, and the Research Project Calculator – the Minitex services used most by the general public. The goal, here, is to create one place where Minnesotans can find all of these services and where they can choose the one(s) that may satisfy their information needs. Two versions of the logo for the portal are:

## MnKnows

DIG DEEPER @  
YOUR LIBRARY.

We think that **MnKnows – Dig Deeper @ Your Library** (or, read it, **Minnesota Knows**, if you prefer) conveys two things:

- MnKnows' status as a Portal to several online services funded by state and federal funds to provide information to Minnesotans.
- The “Dig Deeper @ Your Library” refers Minnesotans to their local libraries of all types for additional information and assistance. The Portal provides a link to the Minnesota Library Directory maintained by State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Minitex staff have created the new MnKnows website, and it is available for your use ([www.mnknows.org](http://www.mnknows.org)). There will be no changes to the URLs for the five services included in this Portal, and searchers can continue to go directly to the individual websites. We're interested in your thoughts on the page – use the comment form that's available on the “Contact” page.

We'll be changing over to the new logos in the next few months. As in the adoption of any new logos, there will be an array of opinions. However, we believe that, looking forward, these changes will continue to portray Minitex services and staff as dedicated, willing to explore, and innovative in providing

improved services to participants. In addition, creating MnKnows provides one website that brings together several statewide information resources for Minnesotans.

Contact Cecelia Boone (612-624-6353, 800-462-6353, [c-boon@umn.edu](mailto:c-boon@umn.edu)) or me (612-624-2839, 800-462-5348, [w-dejo@umn.edu](mailto:w-dejo@umn.edu)) if you have questions or comments about our new names or our development process.

### NCIP Functionality Brings Time Savings for Gateway Libraries

*By Becky Ringwelski*



MnLINK Gateway server sites that use SirsiDynix integrated library systems can now benefit from functionality that allows their circulation systems to use the NCIP protocol to communicate with the Gateway. Traverse des Sioux Library System, the first to implement the new software, has reported time savings for staff of 42 percent for lending activity.



*Becky Ringwelski*

NCIP, the NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol, is a national standard that describes the exchange of messages between integrated library systems and may also include ILL system interaction, provides for controlled access to electronic resources, and facilitates cooperative management of these functions.

Traverse des Sioux (Tds) took advantage of NCIP software developed by SirsiDynix for the circulation system of their Unicorn ILS. Automation Coordinator Jeanne DeMars has been active in testing and implementing Tds' use of NCIP functionality. Following implementation, she conducted a time-study that

showed a 27 percent time savings for staff on the borrowing side and an even larger time savings, 42 percent, on the lending side.

Time savings for staff doing borrowing was divided between the time required at the TdS system office and at the local library where the patron picks up the item. The savings for the local library staff were slightly higher than for the central ILL staff.

Users of other SirsiDynix systems (Horizon 7.4.1 and higher or Symphony 3.2.1) can also implement the SirsiDynix-developed NCIP functionality. SirsiDynix has released a consortial pricing model for the NCIP server software that they have shared with Minnesota customers. Fourteen of the 24 MnLINK Gateway server sites are on a SirsiDynix ILS.

#### ***In other MnLINK Gateway-related developments:***

- OCLC has developed an NCIP gateway that mimics NCIP functionality for circulation systems developed by vendors that don't support NCIP. Minitex staff have placed the MnLINK Gateway sites with Innovative Interfaces Inc.-based systems on the list to be configured for this functionality when it is available to us. The current timeline for this is fall 2009. We have seven MnLINK Gateway server sites using an Innovative Interfaces ILS. This would mean substantial staff savings in processing requests for these sites.
- Testing of ISO ILL functionality between the PALS Aleph ILL system and the MnLINK Gateway VDX ILL system has been completed successfully. Minitex staff is implementing this capability for the two interlibrary loan systems to "talk" to one another for four locations: Minnesota State University, Mankato, will exchange requests with TdS, and St. Cloud State University will exchange requests with Great River Regional Library. These

arrangements will take advantage of existing local delivery routes.

- Minitex now has access to the latest alpha release of version 4.0 of the ZPORTAL/VDX software. The user interface has been retooled to have the look and feel of the OCLC WorldCat.org website. In addition to the revised user interface, there are improvements that streamline processes for staff, such as using the "enter" key for actions rather than needing to advance by using the "submit" button.

Upgrading the MnLINK Gateway software to version 4.0 calls for loading it onto our trial system once a beta version is available. If testing goes well, implementation will occur in May. We'll be keeping the server sites posted as we receive more information on this.

## **OCLC's Proposed New Record Use Policy**

*By Virginia Dudley*

OCLC is in the process of updating its record use policy. The current policy, "Guidelines for the Use and Transfer of OCLC-Derived Records," has been in effect since 1987. In light of the changing information landscape and the desire to both clarify and expand the use and sharing of WorldCat records, OCLC feels an updated policy is necessary.



*Virginia Dudley*

A proposed new policy was announced in November 2008 ("Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records"). This new policy was originally scheduled to take effect by mid-February 2009, but, due to a

flood of comments, questions, and criticisms, OCLC has delayed its implementation until the third quarter of the 2009 calendar year. Meanwhile, OCLC Members Council and the OCLC Board of Trustees have convened a Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship to represent the OCLC membership and to inform OCLC about principles and best practices for sharing library data.

The purpose of this Review Board is to engage the membership and to solicit feedback and questions before the new policy is implemented. As outlined in its charter, the group will:

- Consult with librarians and member representatives as appropriate.
- Review reports, letters, and comments including blog and listserv messages from the global library community regarding the revised Policy.
- Recommend principles of shared data creation and changes in the “Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records” that will preserve the community around the WorldCat infrastructure and services and strengthen libraries.

Jennifer Younger, director, University of Notre Dame Hesburgh Libraries, is chairing the Review Board and Karen Calhoun, vice president, OCLC WorldCat and Metadata Services, is serving as liaison between the Review Board and OCLC.

There is lots of information about all of this online, plus there are ways for you to make your voice heard.

*Summary of the Proposed New Policy:*

<http://www.oclc.org/us/en/worldcat/catalog/policy/default.htm>

There are links from this site to the current

“Guidelines,” to the proposed new “Policy,” and to the Frequently Asked Questions.

*Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship:* <http://www.oclc.org/us/en/worldcat/catalog/policy/board/default.htm>

Email your comments to the Review Board:  
[reviewboard@oclc.org](mailto:reviewboard@oclc.org)

Participate in the Review Board online forum:  
<http://community.oclc.org/reviewboard/>

## **Minitex Contributes to MN Library Community Calendar of CE Events**

Looking for local continuing education opportunities? Want to find out what events are already scheduled when you’re planning future events? Interested in finding free online webinars that you can take from your desktop?

Check out the Minnesota Library Community Calendar of Continuing Education Events by visiting WebJunction Minnesota: <http://mn.webjunction.org>

Sponsored by Minitex, State Library Services, and Metronet, the calendar is designed to centralize information about continuing education (CE) opportunities for members of Minnesota’s library community.

Organizations that contribute to the list include:

- WebJunction Minnesota partners (State Library Services, Minitex, and Metronet)
- Statewide programs for library staff (Library Certification Program, MORE, and MOTSE)
- Minnesota’s regional library systems
- Library schools in Minnesota

- Individual libraries or library-related organizations when the event is open to the broader library community
- National association workshops and conferences offered in Minnesota
- National library association conferences, including ALA and its divisions
- Webinars or other online CE events offered by WebJunction, OPAL, MaintainIT, and other national sources

Business and committee meetings, generally, are not included in the Calendar. For a “Calendar of Library Meetings” of Minnesota library governing and advisory boards, visit:

[http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning\\_Support/Library\\_Services/Minnesota\\_Libraries\\_and\\_Librarians/index.html](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Library_Services/Minnesota_Libraries_and_Librarians/index.html)

To submit an event for the calendar, forward a copy of your promotional material or submit the following event details.

- **Required:** Event Title, Date, Time, Location (when available), Description, Contact Name/Email/Phone, Sponsor
- **Optional:** Presenter Name, Audience, Event Type, Web Link Address

Submit event details to [mary.martin@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.martin@state.mn.us).  
Submit questions or comments to [maryann.vancura@state.mn.us](mailto:maryann.vancura@state.mn.us).

Minitex also maintains a calendar of all Minitex events with selected other events of interest to the library staff in the Minitex region (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota). For the Minitex Calendar of Events, see:

<http://apps.minitex.umn.edu/forums/calendar.php>

## NEWS FROM THE Minitex REGION

### University of MN Libraries Win ACRL Excellence Award



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

The University of Minnesota Libraries have received the Association of College

and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Sponsored by ACRL and Blackwell’s Book Services, the award is presented to outstanding libraries in three categories: Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges.

The awards recognize the library staff for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the institution’s educational mission.

“Receiving an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty and community,” said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen K. Davis. “It is wonderful to learn of the innovative programs and services being offered by these . . . exemplary institutions.”

The University of Minnesota Libraries, winner in the Universities category, was praised for developing excellent strategies to successfully transform and rebrand the libraries to secure a highly valued position on campus.

“The libraries understand the importance of the process of conducting scholarship and have implemented programs to support behaviors rather than product,” said Pamela Snelson, chair of the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee and college librarian at Franklin & Marshall College. “By ‘getting in the flow of users,’ the Libraries have moved out of their comfort zone and shifted into an engagement-centered model for all library services and programs.”

“Were immensely proud of the success we’ve had in integrating our expertise and resources into the life of the campus,” said Wendy Pradt Lougee, university librarian and McKnight presidential professor at the University of Minnesota. “Through careful planning, creative energy, and hard work, we now occupy a highly visible and highly valued position on campus and strong reputation for leadership in the profession. To have our staff’s innovative work recognized by the ACRL community is quite simply wonderful.”

The University Libraries’ award application is available at:

<https://wiki.lib.umn.edu/wupl/Staff.HomePage/2009%20ACRL%20Award%20Application.pdf>

The Moraine Valley Community College Library, Palos Hills, IL, and the Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, won the 2009 Awards in the Community College and College categories.

This is the second year in a row that a Minnesota academic library has won the prestigious national award. Carleton College, Northfield, won the Colleges category award in 2008.

Each winning library for 2009 will receive \$3,000 and a plaque, to be presented at an award ceremony held on each recipient’s campus. The University of Minnesota Libraries ceremony will be April 22. The winners also will receive special recognition at the ACRL President’s Program during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, July 13, in Chicago.

## St. Paul Public Library Receives 2009 John Cotton Dana Award

St. Paul Public Library is one of six recipients of this year’s John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in library public relations. The John Cotton Dana honor has been awarded continuously since 1946 and is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association.

St. Paul Public won the award for “St. Paul-itics,” which was created to inform and engage citizens in the political convention and election season. In partnership with diverse political, arts, and religious organizations, the library served as a salon for civic discourse, presenting 40 programs for all age groups, featuring national political experts as well as local celebrities. St. Paul-itics sought to change the role of the library in the community, increasing program attendance, public awareness, and online library access.

Other libraries that received the 2009 John Cotton Dana Awards included:

- Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, MD
- Gwinnett County (GA) Public Library
- Houston Public Library, Houston, TX
- The Library Foundation of the Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR
- Ypsilanti (MI) District Library

## 11 Minitex Region Public Libraries Recognized as “Exemplary”

Congratulations to 11 public libraries in Minnesota and South Dakota that have received starred ratings in the first *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service.

In Minnesota, the starred ratings went to:

- Runals Memorial Library, Edgerton
- Coleraine Public Library
- Bayport Public Library
- Ely Public Library
- Grand Marais Public Library
- Pelican Rapids Public Library:  
A Multicultural Learning Center
- Saint Paul Public Library
- Hennepin County Library

In South Dakota, the ratings went to:

- Centerville Community Library
- Faulk County Library, Faulkton
- Hazel L. Meyer Memorial Library, DeSmet

The *LJ* Index of Public Library Service, which will be done annually, rates public libraries in nine peer groups, as measured by total expenditures, number of visits, circulation, public Internet computer usage, and program attendance. Libraries with exemplary public usage received between three and five stars based on criteria determined by statisticians Ray Lyons and Keith Curry Lance, who created the rating system. Nationally, 256 libraries received between three and five stars.

To be evaluated, each library had to provide data in all four measured categories from its 2006 annual report to its respective state library agency.

More information about the *LJ* Index is available at:

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6629180.html>

Or, view more information at WebJunction Minnesota’s blog:

<http://webjunctionworks.org/mn/blog/>

## Minitex Region Librarians among *LJ* “Movers & Shakers”

Two Minnesota librarians, Daniel Marcou and Melissa Rethlefsen, have joined the list of those receiving the annual “Movers & Shakers” recognition awarded by *Library Journal* for 2009. Marcou, corrections librarian for the Hennepin County Library, was honored in the Innovators category and Rethlefsen, education technology librarian at the Mayo Clinic, was honored in the Advocates category.

More information about Marcou and Rethlefsen is available at:

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/?layout=MS2009>

*LJ*’s article also identified the other Minitex region librarians identified as “Movers and Shakers” since the program began in 2002:

### Minnesota

- Jeffrey Gegner, 2004
- Daniel Marcou, 2009
- Jessica Moyer, 2008
- Jennifer Nelson, 2008

Ria Newhouse, 2004

Melissa L. Rethlefsen, 2009

Lois Langer Thompson, 2004

Julia F. Wallace, 2003

**North Dakota**

Charles Pace, 2006

## Merged Hennepin County Library Has New Director

Progress continues in the merger of the Hennepin County Library and the former Minneapolis Public Library, which became effective Jan. 1. Lois Langer Thompson, a librarian with more than 20 years experience in the Hennepin County Library system, has been named director of the merged system. And, a single website ([www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)) serves users of 41 libraries across the county, which includes Minneapolis and its western suburbs.

Thompson was selected to lead the system in February after serving as interim library director since Director Amy Ryan resigned last September to become president of the Boston Public Library. Thompson's other positions at Hennepin County Library have included deputy library director, division manager, coordinating librarian, and senior librarian, among others.

As interim director, Thompson led ongoing merger efforts. Her responsibilities included preparing the 2009 operating budget and 2009-2013 capital budget, implementing cost saving reductions of more than \$1 million while overseeing the 2008 budget, executing the Hennepin County Library's Capital Plan, and building collaborations within and outside Ccounty government.

A single, consolidated public website ([www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)) was one of the first products of the merger that was visible to library users. The unified website will include separate Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County Library catalogs until a single catalog system is implemented in the second half of 2009.

More information is available at 952-847-KNOW (952-847-5669) or go to [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org) and click on the "Ask a Librarian button" on the home page.

## Minitex's Electronic Communications

In addition to our print publications, Minitex maintains a number of electronic communications vehicles to provide information about our programs.

The Minitex electronic discussion group, Minitex News, will allow Minitex users to exchange questions and answers about new technologies, Minitex policies and procedures, and other issues. To subscribe, follow these steps:

1. Point your web browser to: **<http://lists.minitex.umn.edu>**
2. Click on **minitex-news** in the list
3. Provide the information requested on the information page

The Minitex World Wide Web homepage (<http://www.Minitex.umn.edu>) provides information about Minitex services and programs and access to Minitex publications. It also allows searchers to link to other Internet homepages.

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