

MINITEX

Reference NOTES

A Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

April 2009

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Spring 2009 MnPALS Reference User Group Work Day

Carla Pfahl



On April 3rd, I was happy to attend the Spring Reference User Group Work Day sponsored by the Consortium of MnPALS Libraries and held at Metropolitan State University Library. Two sessions of note that I found beneficial were the Minnesota Historical Society Spotlight presented by Ruth Bauer Anderson and Copyright in a Digital Age by Jennifer DeJonghe and Martha Hardy.

Ruth gave a very concise and well laid out walk through the MHS website highlighting the online special collections and wealth of resources available to everyone. I especially found the information on History Day, http://www.mnhs.org/library/tips/history_topics/index.htm (link to History Day on right side bar), helpful. It breaks out information for teachers, students, and parents and has links to regional, state, and national events. MHS even has a History Day blog of which I was unaware. To see a full list of all MHS online collections plus research tips and other resourceful websites visit http://www.mnhs.org/library/library_inhouse.htm.

The other session I attended, Copyright in the Digital Age, caught me by surprise. I went into the session with low expectations because many times I have attended sessions on copyright and found the information either too over my head and/or hard to apply to what I do on a daily basis as a librarian. I went away energetic and excited to learn more. Martha and Jennifer did a great job dividing up the session between copyright and Creative Commons, giving a good overview of basic need-to-know information about Fair Use, the Public Domain, Creative Commons, and other common copyright issues, and explaining how the role of technology may affect these matters. They gave some examples of how the arena of education and scholarly publication is embracing more Creative Commons attributes to works and writings. Examples are the University of Michigan Libraries has added Creative Commons licenses to all tutorial and library research guides and MIT's Open Courseware and Public Library of Science (plos.org) has added Creative Commons licenses as well. This is not to shut down collaboration but to enhance it by stating up front that they are making this information freely available and here is what you can use and how. You can view each of their presentations from [slideshare.com](http://www.slideshare.com):

- <http://www.slideshare.net/jdejonghe/copyright-pals-day>
- <http://www.slideshare.net/mhardy/creative-commonslicensed-resources-for-teaching-and-learning>



The MINITEX Library Information Network is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state agency, and special libraries working cooperatively to provide and improve library service to patrons in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Spring 2009 Reference User Group Work Day, part 2(.0)

Matt Lee

I also attended the MnPALS work day and sat in on several interesting breakout sessions. One of those sessions highlighted how Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) librarians are using 2.0 technologies to enhance and promote their library's content, using the following tools:

-LibraryThing (<http://www.librarything.com/>): A collaborative online catalog that helps bring the Historical Society's content to where users are.

-Dipity (<http://www.dipity.com/>): A timeline creator that highlights both important historical occurrences and the Historical Society's research tools to learn more about them.

-WotR (Write on the Record): A tool developed by MHS that allows users to comment on birth and death records, photos, and more, in order to correct erred records and build stories around historical documents.

The Minnesota Historical Society is also creating new content by harnessing the historical knowledge of the community via their new Placeography wiki (<http://www.placeography.org>). This wiki tracks the history of houses, buildings, sites, and neighborhoods through user-generated entries. In addition to giving a voice to anyone in the community, the wiki promotes the MHS Library by giving Historical Society researchers a place to share their research.

Homeschoolers Unite at RiverCentre

(updated from May 2008

Reference Notes)

Beth Staats

The annual two-day conference, MACHE (Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators), was held this April 3rd and 4th in St. Paul at RiverCentre. Minitex was one of the approximately 150 exhibitors. We promoted the ELM databases, MnLINK, Minnesota Reflections, the Research Project Calculator, and My Health Minnesota → Go Local. We talked with many homeschooling parents during the conference who remembered our booth from past conferences. We were happy to hear that several of the folks who stopped by our booth were familiar with MnLINK and the Get It! feature due to their local public librarians.

We were also lucky to have our program proposal accepted in the 11th hour. I presented a session on ELM to an audience of 35 homeschoolers. Results of our conversations were similar to previous years. Homeschooling families are regular and loyal library users, but many had not heard of ELM or the other resources via MnKnows (www.mnknows.org). The vast majority of families currently use their libraries to check out materials and obtain interlibrary loan materials which supplement their Internet access at home. Overall, we found the MACHE attendees to be gracious, engaging, and very interested in ELM and their libraries. A few people already familiar with ELM and MnLINK said they are the best things for which our tax money is used.

MACHE is the largest homeschool conference in the state with an estimated attendance of 6,100 people this year. MACHE continues to be our largest conference in the state and gives us that rare chance to talk directly with library users. Homeschooling continues to be a popular option for some families and in different segments of our communities, and we encourage you to target some services to meet these needs.

Promoting Minnesota Media Centers

Matt Lee



Media specialists have their work cut out for them. With shrinking school budgets comes greater pressure to show the value of library resources. At the same time, expanding responsibilities leave fewer moments in the day to build strategies to highlight this value – and not even enough time to stay current with how peers are handling the situation.

We don't have the answer to this challenge, but we'd like to propose a place online where we can all talk about the question together. We've just put up a new WebJunction Minnesota group dedicated to helping media specialists and school library staff to highlight the value of their media centers to their institutions. Visit and join the "MN Promoting Your Media Center to Teachers" group (<http://mn.webjunction.org/lmcpromo>) and participate in online discussions with your peers about successful strategies to reach out to teachers and students.

Visit the Documents tab for links and documents you can use and the Discussions tab to see and add to what's being talked about. If you haven't already, sign up for a free WebJunction Minnesota account by following the

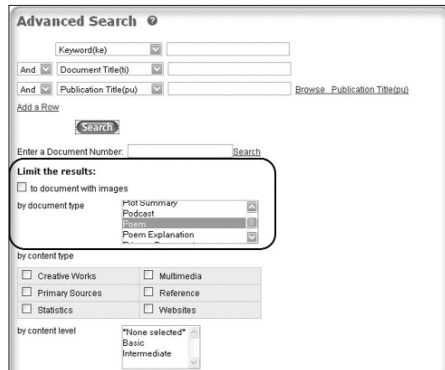
“Create an Account” link in the box toward the upper-right of the page. Then join the group to read and share teacher outreach successes, questions, and frustrations.

And for more online social networking, don't forget about the excellent MEMO Ning (<http://memotech.ning.com/>), where you can chat with and learn from media specialists and IT professionals from across the state.

April is National Poetry Month!

Full-Text Poems in ELM: Discovering Collection

Beth Staats



I did an Advanced Search in the Discovering Collection by selecting only Document Type: **poems**. To my surprise, I retrieved 252 full-text poems! All of these poems are from *Exploring Poetry*, and all are written at the

intermediate content level. In the Discovering Collection, *intermediate* level “indicates a source published for students from a seventh grade comprehension level up through undergraduates, as well as the general public.” Some of the authors included in this list are Matsuo Basho, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Percy Shelley, Robert Browning, T.S. Eliot, William Blake, William Carlos Williams, Edgar Allan Poe, William Butler Yeats, Robert Frost, W. H. Auden, Sylvia Plath, Elizabeth Browning, William Shakespeare, Ezra Pound, William Wordsworth, and John Updike, to name a few. Each poem contains line annotations and the option of using ReadSpeaker, which allows you to hear an audio version of the poem. Each entry also includes an image file of the poem’s author.



In addition to full-text poems with line annotations, the

Discovering Collection also contains hundreds of poet biographies. It seems best to search if you already have a poet in mind. For example, to get a listing of entries for T.S. Eliot, I went into the *Literature* Topic Tree. From there I selected *Authors*, and from there I selected *T.S. Eliot*. By accessing entries this way, I retrieved literary criticism and a narrative biography.

Morning

by Emily Dickinson



WILL there really be a morning?
Is there such a thing as day?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?
Has it feet like water-lilies?
Has it feathers like a bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?
Oh, some scholar! Oh, some sailor!
Oh, some wise man from the skies!
Please do tell a little pilgrim
Where the place called morning lies!

Find this poem and many more poetry titles in NetLibrary eBooks!

Website Recommendation – Poets.org

Jennifer Hootman

If you haven't already done so, take a moment to check out poets.org. This website from the Academy of American Poets provides:

- more than 300 audio clips through Poetcast and more added every week;
- hundreds of poetry videos;
- over 400 prose pieces including essays and interviews;
- entries on poets from Minnesota and its Poet Laureate, Robert Bly, as well as other states;
- a guide to Minnesota literary journals and small presses, poems about Minnesota, and poetry/poet landmarks in Minnesota (provided for other states as well);
- materials for educators including curriculum and lesson plans, teacher discussion forum, essays on teaching, tips for teaching poetry, great poems to teach, teaching resource center, and poetry Read-a-Thon.
- discussion forums to connect with others in sharing your opinion, posting your own review, debating poets, poetry, and criticism, and much more;

Moreover, the website’s entire collection of over 2,500 poems as well as hundreds of biographies and essays is available to access via mobile devices. Check out poets.org and read today’s poem in honor of National Poetry Month!

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning, and State Library Services & School Technology, the Minnesota state library agency, supports MINITEX Reference Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

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 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with 10 percent postconsumer material.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Elly Gustafson Held: (612) 624-1081, (800) 462-5348 or ellyph@umn.edu.

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A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office at the University of Minnesota