

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)
Kathy Enger, Executive Director
March 16, 2024

Welcome Joe Gould

Welcome to Joe Gould, the new representative from Kitchigami Regional Library (KRLS). Thank you to Lynn Eaton for his service with NLLN as former Kitchi representative.

Audit and FDIC

Northern Lights Library Network's auditor, Marc Colin, from Carpenter, Evert and Associates, recommended placing funds over \$250,000 into another bank to ensure FDIC coverage. Amounts over \$250,000 in NLLN's reserves will be moved to a Money Market at U.S. Bank, one of the four largest banks in the United States, a Tier One Capital bank, with approximately 18% increase in deposits over the last year. Current banking takes place at Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes, where NLLN has developed a longstanding working relationship. Work with Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes will continue for funds \$250,000 and below.

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM)

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) training is open and ongoing. For individualized or group training, contact Beth Staats at: fried004@umn.edu. eLibraryMN celebrates its 8th year this year. eLibraryMN is "information resources for all Minnesota researchers, residents, students, and lifelong learners" <https://elibrarymn.org/>. All Minnesotans can use ELM for no charge. Resources include eBooks, Job & Career Skill Building, Health, Medicine, and Nursing databases, Britannica, PebbleGo, Explora Kids, and many more. Many of the resources include audio assistance.

Professional Library Titles Available

Arrowhead Library System (ALS) developed a professional library collection useful to librarians, library staff, and library board members. While the collection is housed at the ALS building in Mountain Iron, it can be accessed and requested via the MNLINK catalog: <https://mnlink.org/>

"Better Together"

The next "Better Together" workshop is Monday, June 10, 2024, in Fergus Falls at Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No charge, free food, and CEUs, included. We will continue our conversations about all things important to us, as we work together to engage students and our friends and neighbors in the love of reading. We'll hear from: Mark Mindt, author and illustrator of Coda Books: <https://www.standing-rock.k12.nd.us/sys/content/announcementpost/ad390ba8e15e4f33a1b3e5e4209e269e>); discuss

and review collection management policies with Gina Drellack, Northwest Service Cooperative; learn about new children's books from Louie Lauer, from Fargo Schools and MSUM; review ELA standards resources; engage in hands-on break-out sessions for book repair with Karen Breach, Wheaton Schools, storytelling, 3-D printing, and Makerspaces. The goal of "Better Together" is to bring us together with our colleagues to share our stories, thoughts, and ideas. We're here to support each other in our work.

Mailing to School Library Staff

A mailing to all school library staff in the region will go out through the U.S. Postal Service, including a packet of the Minnesota School Board Association's Collection Management Policy, Scholarship applications, and information on June 10th's "Better Together" workshop.

School Library Census

The school library census survey is underway. Julie Reimer is the K-12 School Library Census Project Manager, working as the liaison between the multicounty, multitype directors, the Advisory Group, and Counting Opinions. Julie is a former elementary school librarian, an avid reader, and somebody who values curiosity, connection, and kindness. She previously worked with Verena Getahun on the MDE School Library Status. Counting Opinions is creating the survey. The intent of the survey is to understand which schools in Minnesota have libraries and who is managing them, generally. The effort is overseen by an advisory group. The multicounty, multitype library systems have been tasked with this effort and was allocated funds to accomplish it. The second phase of the project is to provide resources to schools to increase the number of licensed media specialists in Minnesota's schools.

School Library Media Programs in Minnesota

There are currently three school library media programs in Minnesota leading to school library media licensure:

University of Minnesota Mankato: Belle Nelson, Coordinator, laura.nelson.2@mnsu.edu; <https://grad.mnsu.edu/all-graduate-programs/school-library-information-studies/>

St. Cloud State University: Jennifer Hill, Coordinator, jchill@stcloudstate.edu; <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/im-library/default.aspx>

Saint Catherine's University: Lacey Rotier, Coordinator; lrotier504@stkate.edu; <https://www.stkate.edu/academics/academic-programs/gc-school-library-media-specialist>

Support for Osakis Public School

NLLN supported the print collection at Osakis Public School. As a result of Minnesota Statute 124D.901, Osakis hired a part-time librarian for their library last September, Jennifer Otremba. Jennifer determined that the Osakis collection is a median age of the year 2000 and she is

developing a strategic plan to develop the library further. She is possibly seeking LSTA funding to create a makerspace in the library. Jennifer is working on her media specialist licensure.

Public School Libraries and Media Centers Minnesota Statute 124D.901

The Minnesota Legislature passed legislation and funding to school districts last session to increase service in school libraries. The statute states the following:

A school district or charter school library or school library media center provides equitable and free access to students, teachers, and administrators. A school library or school library media center must have the following characteristics:

- (1) ensures every student has equitable access to resources and is able to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged;
- (2) has a collection development plan that includes but is not limited to materials selection and deselection, a challenged materials procedure, and an intellectual and academic freedom statement;
- (3) is housed in a central location that provides an environment for expanded learning and supports a variety of student interests;
- (4) has technology and Internet access; and
- (5) is served by a licensed school library media specialist or licensed school librarian.

Senate File 3471

This session, Senate File 3471 was introduced to establish a state school librarian, amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 134.31, by adding a subdivision stating generally that the “Department of Education must employ a state school librarian within the State Library Services Division of the department to provide technical assistance to licensed school library media specialists and licensed school librarians. The state school librarian must be or have been a licensed school library media specialist. The state school librarian must collaborate with department staff in the areas of academic standards development, data collection from district and charter schools administering state library aide, and monitoring district compliance ...: see:

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3471&version=0&session=ls93&session_year=2024&session_number=0&fbclid=IwAR0qWFwyaHH-8UY3_gjHfZ15ey3L-Qq1vESAnzI9j7CiJ3VHvpIuYqBTIXA

Thank you to Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative for speaking on behalf of libraries in the NLLN region and state at the Senate Education Finance Committee meeting on February 29 in support of the bill. Her testimony is here:

<https://mnsenate.granicus.com/player/clip/12160>

Senate File 3474

Committee on Education Policy meeting on March 6 heard testimony to create a Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety Council. Amendment a.1 was also introduced to increase the

council from 19 members to 21 by adding two academic librarians to the council. Both the bill and amendment introduced by Senator Kunesh passed. Sheri Levasseur testified on behalf of the bill and libraries in the NLLN region and state. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5QmIsscBfA>

134.351

The multicounty, multitype systems (MCMT) are seeking an addition to the statute that governs the MCMTs. A majority vote among the directors moved to bring the following change forward as an MLA legislative priority. I was the only MCMT to vote “no” to the changes, with the concern that the option of removing public library representation on MCMT boards would negatively impact the composition of the NLLN Governing Board in the long run and erode the effectiveness of the multicounty, multitype library systems. The section most concerning would allow public library systems to be removed from governance on multicounty, multitype boards:

“(d) Upon recommendation of its advisory committee, governing board, and the boards of any regional public library systems involved under (a) or (b) above in governance may choose to reconstitute the governance of the multicounty multitype library system to be an independent board by severing the appointment responsibility of regional public library system boards.

Hoopla Support for Wheaton Public Library and Browns Valley Public Library

NLLN supported Hoopla for the Wheaton Public Library during 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2021, usage for Hoopla at Wheaton Public Library was 377, by 2023, usage went up to 729. NLLN began supporting Hoopla for the Browns Valley Public Library for the first time this year.

eBook and eAudio Book Support for KRLS and NWRL

Kitchigami Regional Library System has received a check from NLLN to support their eAudio book initiative and funds will be going to Northwest Regional Library System (NWRL), as well.

Bookmobile Service to Campbell School

A check was hand-delivered to the Viking Library System (VLS) to support ongoing bookmobile service to Campbell School, with the remaining funds to support interlibrary loan.

Friends of the Moorhead Public Library Giving Hearts Day Donation

NLLN learned that the Friends of the Moorhead Public Library was not reaching its goal for a match for Giving Hearts Day, so NLLN stepped-up and made a donation so they could meet their goal. This is the first time the Friends of the Moorhead Public Library participated in Giving Hearts Day. Funds support the Moorhead Library’s programs and services; specifically, Moorhead Library’s book truck, summer programs for youth, upgrades to the children’s area, and support for the new community center library.

Broadsides

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) commissioned 35 numbered and signed copies of broadsides by distinguished regional poets designed and printed on a printer at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) by Patrick Vincent, a former professor at MSUM. After an introduction to broadsides by Dr. Thom Tammaro, three of the poets will read at the West Fargo Public Library on April 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., including Kevin Zepper, Mark Vinz, and Ken Bennet. Poems from broadsides of three other poets who will not be in attendance will also be read: Denise Lajomoidiere, Lina Belar, and Travis Dolence. Copies of the broadsides will be donated to the West Fargo Public Library. Northern Lights Library Network seeks to discover resources within the region and to share them universally, as with the West Fargo Public Library broadside donation.

Festival of Fathers and Families Book Donation

Representative Keeler and her son, Elliot, donated Eliot's childhood book collection to White Earth for their *Festival of Fathers and Families*. Joy Lindell from MSUM picked up the books and delivered them to MSUM. Kathy Enger delivered the books to White Earth. Storybook characters from Adell Bridgeford and two sets of book donations from NLLN were included in the set.

20th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference August 14 and 15, Pre-conference August 13

White Earth Early Childhood Development will again be hosting an in-person conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen August 13 – 15. Many of the presentations are of interest to educators and librarians, including mental health and self-care resources. NLLN is sponsoring Dr. J. from MSUM, who will be a keynote and presenting material from her dissertation, *Jumping through Sacred Hoops: Multi-Ethnic Indigenous Identity and Approaches in Health and Wellness Education*, "As a result of historical trauma, it is paramount for Indigenous communities to take control of their health and wellness today in order to maintain the survival of Indigenous people" (<https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/handle/10365/32713>).

MSUM English Collection

NLLN has a large collection of vinyl records from the English Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) — from Shakespeare plays to readings of Robert Frost. The library where they were housed in Weld Hall is under renovation and the collection was given to Northern Lights Library Network to distribute for free to libraries in our region. So far, no one has claimed the collection.

Scholarships

So far, \$5,871.90 has been granted for scholarships for the following: MLA Fall Conference; a Scholarly Writing Grad. Class; Librarian visiting Paris; the PLA Conference; Native American literature course creation; Archive training for a paraprofessionals.

Funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is one of seven Minnesota multicounty, multitype library cooperative systems. NLLN is comprised of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-Central, Northwest, and West-Central Minnesota. NLLN works at the grassroots level to bring together all types of libraries and collections in the region to discover, enhance, and share resources through administrative, technological, and educational support.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (Minnesota is comprised of 86,939 square miles), and includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

The Northern Lights Library Network system consists of four regional public library systems; academic libraries on two campuses of the University of Minnesota at Crookston and Morris; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System institutions on four campuses, including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, all located across the region in Moorhead, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Wadena, and Fergus Falls; numerous private colleges; three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; the Maamigin Achigaazo Community Library at White Earth; one hundred-eighty-five school libraries in seventy-nine school districts, including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools; and a rich variety of special libraries in museums, county law libraries, hospitals, churches, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network reduces duplication of services by enhancing coordination among libraries. As resources are shared among libraries, services are expanded, and efficiency is improved. As a result, libraries offer services or programs they may not otherwise be able to afford.

All of the work performed by Northern Lights Library Network affects the direct service of its members, and has an exponential effect on its client base. Northern Lights Library Network exists to recognize the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine the supporting structures required for local library systems to function successfully, taking into account the unique needs of people at the local level and the different types of libraries served.

A primary goal of Northern Lights Library Network is to bring resources from the state and national level to the local level. Another goal is to discover resources within the region and to share them universally.

Northern Lights Library Network is one of seven multi-county, multi-type library systems in Minnesota mandated by Minnesota Statute 134.351 to develop and maintain services including, but not limited to, “referral of users, intra-system reciprocal borrowing, cooperative collection development, cooperative reference services, staff development, research and development, cooperative storage facilities, and publicity and community relations.”

The five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- *Sharing Resources Among all Participating Libraries*
- *Providing Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs*
- *Developing a Delivery System for Services and Programs*
- *Developing a Bibliographic Database*
- *Maintaining a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries*

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions: Develop library staffs professionally; improve local library collections; sponsor and support funding for libraries; champion libraries; create, develop, and maintain library programs that enrich the lives of Minnesotans; move the discipline of Library and Information Science forward; and lead and administer their own nonprofit agencies. The seven systems are governed by regional boards.

There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries.