

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report August 16, 2008

Meetings/Activities

June 2008

- June 21 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes
June 26 NLLN Operating Grant for FY2009 finalized and submitted

JULY 2008

- July 2 Meeting with Chris McArthur regarding summer work with the North Star Library Consortium, Detroit Lakes
July 9 Day with Leech Lake Tribal College and Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs to do retrospective conversion for LLECP and to assist LLTC with some technical issues. Chris McArthur was with me; she spent several more days there working with the Early Childhood Program.
Week of July 7 Destiny software upgrade to version 8.5 begun at Region 1
July 11 OPAL Casual Conversation – Gerald Schwartz. Online OPAL session.
July 16 MLA-MEMO Legislative Forum, Chanhassen
July 18 Planning meeting with Lori Thompson, evaluator for E2T2 grant
July 28 Planning meeting with Patricia Post regarding Destiny training and Back to School workshop
July 29 Multitype Director's Meeting, St Paul

August 2008

- Aug 1 Meeting with Bob Wheeler to revise E2T2 budget; plan for next round of new members to the NSLC.
Aug 5-6 Audit begun in the Office
Aug 7 Planning meeting for Aug 21, 2008 Back to School workshop, OPAL Online Conference in NLLN OPAL room.
Aug 8 Planning/brainstorming meeting regarding Professional Engagement Funds and NLLN staffing with Gay Galles, Erika Rux, and Stacy Voeller, Moorhead
Aug 11 Preliminary reports for Eide Bailly to prepare NLLN 990 Tax Report.
Aug 14-15 North Star Library Consortium training – 4 sessions – for Destiny District Administrators, Detroit Lakes,
Aug 16 NLLN Governing Board Meeting

Communication

Communication the past few months has been via the usual channels: webpage, email, listservs, electronic newsletters, wiki pages, telephone, webconferencing, and in person. See the June 2008 Director's Report for details on those activities. There is nothing particularly new to report, but each of these channels is being used very heavily to do the work of NLLN across the region, the state, and the nation.

Continuing Education

- **Teleconferences** from the College of DuPage will again be sponsored by NLLN in partnership with MINITEX and MSU-M Livingston Lord Library. These teleconferences are available by satellite downlink and by video streaming, and each teleconference is archived. This year's series begins in November and it looks like they will be quite interesting.
- **NLLN Annual Meeting TechnoFit Workshop with Brenda Hough:** This has been re-scheduled for Saturday, Sept 27, at Thumper Pond. The focus of this workshop will be how to manage your own individual learning and some tools to help you do it. It will also include a spotlight on those who completed the 23 Things on a Stick project and have begun incorporating those tools into their professional work. Bill DeJohn, the Director of MINITEX, will speak during lunch. It should be a wonderful day and I encourage everyone to attend, and to promote this in their libraries.
- **23 Things on a Stick:** Round 2 of this popular project began May 15 and will run til Sept 15. To date we have 24 new or continuing participants in the NLLN region, and 388 statewide. A good response. We have had a small number of summer participants in the NLLN region who have completed this round, but I suspect the final numbers will be small. Each finisher will receive a useful – and cute – flash drive and will be recognized at our Sept 27 workshop.
- **NLLN Scholarships:** We have begun receiving requests for NLLN Scholarships and Erika, the new chair of the committee, and I have reviewed them and approved them. As they are completed we will post the written reports on the NLLN webpage. I anticipate we will have fewer scholarships this year than last (56), but it is a popular and valuable program that continues to grow. This year we are able to fund these out of our state operating grant, rather than from reserve funds.
- **North Star Library Consortium (NSLC) Training:** We are doing 4 training sessions (Aug 14-15) for those members of the Consortium as of June 1, 2008. This training is to acquaint the Consortium members with the new functionality they have as a result of the re-configuration of the Destiny databases. 57 people are registered for these sessions.
- **Destiny training for new NSLC members:** We are adding up to 20 new sites from 8 school districts this summer. Each site will send people to a 2-day Destiny training. The new sites will come from both the NLLN region and the Central Minnesota region.
- **“Back to School Special Workshop: Building Community. Supporting Collaboration”:** will take place Aug 21 at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria. Registration will be free and open to anyone in the state. The day will include introduction of the new WebJunction Minnesota platform, new functionality with EBSCO-Host (an ELM resource), what's new in Destiny ver 8.5, best practices in the media center, and a lot of networking and interaction among media center staff in the NLLN and CMLE region. This staff development event is part of the E2T2 grant. The first 60 registrants will receive a free MP3 player – and learn some nifty applications at the workshop.
- **Spotlight on Books:** Due to the press of other activities, this has been sitting on the back burner in my office, though Joan Larson has continued to work on the 2009 event. We are still in the planning phase – and a little behind schedule – but anticipate that we will be able to pull together the preliminary program in the coming weeks.

Resource Sharing

- **Cat Express Subscription:** This group subscription has been renewed for another year. We anticipate adding more subscribing libraries to this subscription. In FY 2008 we used CatExpress to add 4223 records to regional catalogs. In 2008 the majority of these records were downloaded by Northwest Regional Library system (who pays for their entire subscription) and the rest by other libraries (mostly in the North Star Library Consortium) who are not part of a MnLINK Gateway site. We anticipate that NSLC members will be making more demands on CatExpress as a result of the re-configuration of the Consortium databases.

North Star Library Consortium (NSLC): This has been the source of most of my attention for the past 3 months and will continue to take a lot of time in the coming months. It is a big undertaking that is growing and expanding!

Highlights of the summer include:

- ❖ Total reconfiguration of the existing NSLC databases. In place of one very large database, we now have it divided out by district into 50 databases. This has resulted in new functionality at the local district and site level – and requires training for all 86 sites. (Aug 14-15)
 - ❖ Upgraded the Destiny software from ver 8.0 to version 8.5. This new version has a number of new features that we will explore in our Aug 21 workshop.
 - ❖ Adding up to 8 new districts (18 sites) in July/August, with a 2-day training being held Aug 19-20 in Sartell as most of the new members are from the CMLE region.
 - ❖ We'll be adding another day of training in Sept for new staff in existing sites. There has been considerable turn over in school library staffing this year. This training date will be for staff new to using Destiny.
- **Chris McArthur's work:** Chris has been working in a number of locations providing assistance for retrospective conversion of their collections. Naytahwaush Charter School, Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs, and Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools have all received assistance this summer. In addition, Chris has been providing support for NSLC members in regard to the new configuration of the Consortium and in use of the ver 8.5 Destiny software. Chris will attend the training sessions for current members and participate in the Back to School Workshop on Aug 21.

OTHER: I have been meeting with colleagues, board members, and other multitype directors to discuss potential staffing changes in NLLN. I am exploring the possibility of adding a new professional position to the NLLN staff. A summary of my work so far, and a proposal for this position, will be distributed to the Board as a separate document.

Ruth Solie
August 16, 2008