

**Annual Report  
Northern Lights Library Network  
Fiscal Year 2018**

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Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative system of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-central, North-west, and West-central Minnesota, that 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 is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

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”. There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries. The five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- Share Resources Among all Participating Libraries
- Provide Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs
- Develop a Delivery System for Services and Programs
- Development of a Bibliographic Database
- Maintain a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions: Develop library staff professionally; improve local library collections; sponsor and support funding for libraries; champion for 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.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (the State of Minnesota covers a total of 86,939 miles) that includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomen, 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 including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College on four campuses (Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Wadena, and Fergus Falls); three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; numerous private colleges; one hundred eighty five school libraries (including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools) in seventy-nine school districts; and a rich variety of special libraries in museums, county law libraries, hospitals, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to determine the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine what supporting structures are 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.

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 can 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.

The following goals are accomplished to utilize state resources efficiently and execute library programs effectively:

### **Share Resources Among All Participating Libraries**

*Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) seeks to deliver library materials to patrons in a timely manner.*

Northern Lights Library Network supports interlibrary loan delivery service for the Viking Regional Public Library System (VLS) and bookmobile service to Campbell, Minnesota, through VLS. Support for interlibrary loan provides delivery and pick-up of materials every two days among all of the libraries in the Viking Regional Public Library System serving counties in the Northern Lights Library Network region: Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse. The public libraries served are located in Alexandria, Browns Valley, Elbow Lake, Fergus Falls, Glenwood, Hancock, Morris, New York Mills, Pelican Rapids, Perham, and Wheaton. An average of 5,600 materials were distributed through interlibrary loan to other libraries and approximately 4,600 materials were received during Fiscal Year 2018.

Northern Lights Library Network supports bookmobile service from Viking Library System to Campbell, Minnesota. Campbell is located in the area served by Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) System; since LARL does not have a bookmobile, and the nearest public library serving Campbell constituents is thirty miles away, it is beneficial to citizens in Campbell and the surrounding area to receive access to books regularly through bookmobile service. The bookmobile serves students and educators at Campbell School, stopping in Campbell twenty-five times a year.

### **Provide Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs**

*Northern Lights Library Network facilitates collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing among libraries throughout the NLLN region and the State of Minnesota. Activities that bring libraries together strengthen rural libraries and communities.*

Executive Director, Kathy Enger, travels to libraries and attends meetings throughout the Northern Lights Library Network region and the State of Minnesota. Strong support of libraries maintains and builds a strong library infrastructure, communicates the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens of the region, and may result in continued support and funding. During Fiscal Year 2018, Kathy attended fifty-one meetings statewide.

With a grant from Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC), Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) Professor Emeritus, Alan Davis, conducted writing seminars at libraries in the LRAC region during September, 2018, stopping at the Detroit Lakes Public Library for an evening. Northern Lights Library Network contacted libraries in the region to notify them of this resource.

The Tribal College Library Directors met quarterly during the 2018 Fiscal Year. Northern Lights Library Network was instrumental in initially bringing the directors together and continues to participate in the meetings.

Executive Director Kathy Enger and Roseau Media Specialist Glenn Heinecke conducted research to determine the skills media specialists impart to students. The study used a grounded theory, qualitative approach, to examine sixty-seven full-text scholarly articles in the literature of Library and Information Science on the terms “Media Specialist” and “School Librarian” from 1997-2016, including sixty-eight Internet documents from state education websites and district education websites totaling 2,240 pages of documents. Charmaz (2014) recommends the use of documents as a source of data, particularly in developing grounded theory.

Students in schools with full-time, certified media specialists, do significantly better on standardized tests than students in schools without certified media specialists (Bleidt, 2011; Farmer, 2006; Francis & Lance, 2011; Hughes, 2014; Hughes, et al, 2013; Kuon, Flores, & Pickett, 2014; Lance & Hofschire, 2012; Montiel-Overall, 2009; Neuman & Celano, 2001; Small & Snyder, 2010; Strong, 2014).

*Media specialists: “are uniquely qualified to teach the information literacy skills that are paramount in a knowledge-based economy” (Francis & Lance, 2011, p. 65).*

The study found that media specialists teach information literacy skills, digital literacy skills, and library and information science skills, all the while engaging students the higher-order thinking skills of analyzing, synthesizing, and

evaluating (Bloom, 1956), in addition to teaching students the importance of reading and how to read, basic skills that lead to academic success. The study was presented at the University of Minnesota *eLearning Summit* on August 3, 2017, and was noted in *School Library Journal's Advocate's Toolbox*:

See: <http://advocacy.slj.com/?category=Effective>

The John Wallace Ingersoll Memorial Fund was established in December, 2016, in memory of NLLN President Wayne Ingersoll's brother, John Wallace Ingersoll, in order to honor current and past NLLN Governing Board members and to honor current and past NLLN members. Funds are used to support the programming of Northern Lights Library Network and opportunities are available to add to this fund at any time.

Aleta Sanford, a Junior at Minnesota State University Moorhead majoring in Business Administration and English, volunteered at NLLN throughout FY2018.

Northern Lights Library Network was an Educational Sponsor of the Minnesota Book Awards. Executive Director Kathy Enger attended the award ceremony in April with Lynette Schwagerl from Campbell School.

### **Development of a Delivery System for Services and Programs**

*Northern Lights Library Network supports literacy initiatives among all types of libraries. From early reading activities to advanced literary discussions, library literacy initiatives bring people together to get to know books in enjoyable and satisfying situations. Literacy promotes personal improvement and enlightenment, ensures equity, dignifies, and creates prosperity.*

Sixteen library staff from the NLLN region received scholarships from NLLN to attend:

- Master Class Leadership
- International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Regional Conference
- Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference
- Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) conference
- Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) Fall Workshop
- A national Interlibrary Loan conference in Colorado
- Library Technology Conference at Macalester College
- Introduction to the Online Genealogical Library

Continuing education scholarships are awarded as incentive for individual growth and development in order to enhance library services throughout the NLLN region.

Northern Lights Library Network provides training opportunities for library staff and educators in the region. Over thirty librarians from academic, public, and school libraries attended the June 11 “Better Together” workshop at Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) in Fergus Falls. The overall intent of the workshop was to bring librarians and educators in the region together to share their experiences and ideas about how they are serving children and young adults. Bringing librarians and educators together to talk about their work makes us stronger and unites us in the work that we share.

Thank you to Glenn Heinecke, Roseau School, and Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell School, for planning and facilitating this conference. Thank you to Jeanne Ingersoll for donating books for the workshop, to Laurie Conzemius for technology training, and to Carol Sibley for collection management training and for donating books.

Carol Sibley, professor emerita, from Minnesota State University Moorhead, taught collection development techniques and discussed how to evaluate picture books. Workshop participants were given time to evaluate books and received a copy of *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books* by Kathleen T. Horning to use in their work.

Attendees learned new technology tips, apps., and about valuable websites. The executive director Lake Region Arts Council, Maxine Adams, discussed how to apply for grants with LRAC and other granting entities.

Authors and artists of *Working Land* Jon Solinger, Katherine Meiners, and John Cox discussed their book.

Everyone went home with many new books to add to library collections. Five continuing education credits were awarded.

A mini – “Better Together” workshop led by Carla Steinberg Pfahl from Minitex will take place on August 13.

The following libraries were represented at the June 11<sup>th</sup> workshop:

New York Mills Public Library, Concordia College Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Lake Region Arts Council, Morris Elementary School, St. Joseph’s School – Moorhead, ISD#595 East Grand Forks, Park Rapids Area Schools, North Dakota State University, Morris Public Library, Browns Valley Elementary, Menahga Elementary School, Thorson Memorial Elbow Lake Public Library, Detroit Lakes Public Library, Breckenridge Public Library, Blackduck Community Library, Roseau Public Schools, Walker Public Library, Underwood Public School, Battle Lake Public School, Fisher School, Naytahwaush Community Charter School, St. Mary’s School Breckenridge, Moorhead Public Library, Detroit Lakes Middle School, South Point Elementary East Grand Forks, Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Elementary School Library, Campbell Tintah Schools, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Heart of Lakes Elementary School Perham, Garfield Elementary Brainerd, Lake Park-Audubon Elementary School, and Henning Public School.

The Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) *Library/Media Workshop* was held on October 25, 2017, at the NWSC headquarters in Thief River Falls. The five sessions included: 1. Helping Students Use Infographics to Demonstrate Learning by Gina Drellack. 2. Shared Ebook Collection with Overdrive by Brian Potash from Overdrive. 3. Digital Literacy and Students by Gina Drellack. 4. Library of the Future and Future Library Standards by NLLN Executive Director, Kathy Enger. 5. EBooks Minnesota by Kathy Enger. Discussion topics included Future Ready Library Standards, Genrefication of Collections, and Makerspaces. Eighteen librarians, media specialists, and library paraprofessionals from the region participated from the following schools:

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo school, St. Joseph’s School Moorhead, South Point Elementary East Grand Forks, Sacred Heart School East Grand Forks, Bagley High School, Northland High School in Remer, Fisher Public School, Lake Park Audubon High School, Hancock Public School, Blackduck School, MCC-Newfolden Elementary, Red Lake Elementary and High School, Greenbush/Middle River Greenbush Site, and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton School. Training at Northern Lights Library Network is based on practical adult learning principles linked to skill building, whereby:

- Learning fills an immediate need and is highly participatory.
- Learning will be helpful and applicable in the work setting.
- Learning is experiential whereby participants and trainers learn from one another.

- Training encompasses time for reflection and feedback.
- A mutually respectful environment is created among trainers and colleagues.

Northern Lights Library Network continues to support the *Maamagin Achigaazo*, the community library at White Earth. Over the last several years, NLLN supported White Earth Early Childhood Development program in building Little Free Libraries for communities throughout White Earth; building the online catalog and acquiring materials and books with a \$121,000 Institute for Museum and Library Services grant; and donating MSUM library furniture for the community library. With the community library in place, NLLN looks for ways to continue to support White Earth. During Fiscal Year 2018, Denise Lajimodiere's broadside, *Birch Bark Biting*, was framed and given to White Earth for its Autism Foundation silent auction at the annual *Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference*, August 2017; NLLN donated an iPad for a drawing at the *Annual White Earth Child Care Early Childhood Program Christmas Gift Drive* as a drawing for those donating gifts; the NLLN Governing Board donated gifts for the Christmas Drive. The community library at White Earth provides access to literacy-rich materials for people in the region, including books and access to electronic resources, prepares children to begin school, and gives people of all ages access to reading material.

In collaboration with local artists, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) printed broadsides that are for sale at \$25 each to raise funds for NLLN's scholarship fund. Signed and numbered broadsides were created and printed by Patrick Vincent, former professor of visual arts at Minnesota State University Moorhead, and written by six poets in the NLLN region. 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 share them universally. The broadsides are:

*"At the Library,"* by Lina Belar

"At the Library" joins two sisters who read through all the books gracing a library's shelves in a single summer. Belar attended Columbia University and served as museum director in several cultural organizations throughout Central Minnesota. Her poems are published in *Rural Score* and another book will be published shortly.

*"Carnegie Libraries,"* by Dr. Kenneth Bennett

"Carnegie Libraries" depicts the architectural beauty of Carnegie libraries, and the people, young and old, who enjoy them. Staples in many communities dotting the country, Carnegie libraries were houses of knowledge anyone had a key to enter. This poem speaks of their beauty in knowledge and visual detail. This is all met with the innocence of someone spilling their favorite drink on the steps leading to higher education.

Bennett received his undergraduate degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and was editor of *The Advocate* during the turbulent 1960s. Ken Bennet is a former English professor at universities throughout the Midwest and in more tropical

climates such as Puerto Rico. With backgrounds in English and mass communication, he ensures his works are literary perfection anyone can enjoy. Bennett has published several books of poetry, including *Surviving Each Other* and *Grandma's Rebellion*.

“*The Longest Hour*,” by Professor Travis Dolence

“The Longest Hour” portrays the dedication of librarians everywhere. Dolence is the Director of New Rivers Press and a librarian at MSUM. His work has appeared in the *MacGuffin*, *Burningword*, and the chapbook, *The Lyrical Librarian: Verses from the Stacks*, published by Consortium.

“*Birch Bark Biting*,” by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere

Birch bark biting is a pre-contact Ojibwe and Cree art. Following a ceremony, birch bark is gathered in the spring of the year. Thin layers are then folded and bitten with eye teeth to make designs. Bitings are also used as patterns for quill and beadwork. Lajimodiere is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and a professor at North Dakota State University. She published *Dragonfly Dance* with Michigan State University Press and *Thunderbird* with the Institute for Regional Studies Press at North Dakota State University Press. She has also published extensive research on the boarding school experience of Native Americans in the United States.

“*North of North*,” by Professor Emeritus Mark Vinz

Winter in the Northern Great Plains is a thing of beauty and pain. “North of North” captures the feelings of those living through the chill, making the experience a vivid metaphor of human perseverance. “It's always colder somewhere else. We praise our plows and furnaces, fall back again on what we know.” A professor at MSUM for nearly forty years, Vinz is a much-published poet whose list of collections includes *Climbing the Stairs*, *Mixed Blessings*, *Long Distance*, *Affinities*, *Late Night Calls*, and *The Work is All*. His memoir, *Man of the House*, was published in 2017, and his latest publication is, *Permanent Record*.

“*Used Poetry*,” by Professor Kevin Zepper

“Used Poetry” makes the creation and editing of a poem relatable to anyone who has ever had vehicle woes. The parallels between poetry and the parts of an automobile will make everyone remember writing his or her first poem or buying his or her first car. Zepper teaches in the English department at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Kevin Zepper is an English professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead. His work has been featured at national conferences along with television and radio stations in the upper-Midwest. A collection of his poetry is forthcoming this year from Beatlick Press in New Mexico.

The broadside poems written by the six local poets were read by the poets at *The McGrath Reading Series* sponsored by Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM)

and NLLN Thursday evening, February 1, from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Library Porch at Minnesota State University Moorhead. About forty people attended the event, and NLLN hosted comfort food in the Faculty Development Center following the reading.

Northern Lights Library Network supports increased access to books for citizens in the region through eBook access for middle and high school students by supporting eBook and eAudiobook collections at Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL), Northwest Regional Library (NWRL), and Kitchigami Regional Library (KRLS).

Forty years of the journal, *Minnesota History*, was donated by MSUM to Morris Public School using *NLLN's Resource Exchange*. Thanks to Sandra Kill from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and Wendy Gibson at Minnesota State University Moorhead, for facilitating the delivery. Northern Lights Library Network facilitates the exchange of materials among libraries by listing the items on NLLN's listservs and shipping through the Minitex Delivery System.

### **Development of a Bibliographic Database**

*Northern Lights Library Network supports existing catalog structures in regional schools by providing training for library media personnel using the Destiny catalog, by supporting cataloging fees for membership to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) CatExpress, cataloging access for twenty-six schools and libraries in the region, and facilitating the use of the NorthStar Union Catalog, a consortium of libraries in Minnesota using the Destiny Catalog.*

### **Communications System among all Cooperating Libraries**

*Northern Lights Library Network sends ongoing emails through lists to member libraries.*

### **Thank you to the Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board Fiscal Year 2018:**

Wayne Ingersoll, President, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative  
Mari Dailey, Vice President, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative,  
Moorhead City Council  
Charlie Lindberg, Secretary, Northwest Regional Library System Representative,  
Kittson Central Schools, emerita  
Carol Sibley, Treasurer, Academic Library Representative, Minnesota State  
University Moorhead emerita  
Reed Olson, Kitchigami Regional Library Representative, Beltrami County  
Commissioner  
Tony DeSanto, Kitchigami Regional Library Representative  
Nanette Albright and Ruth Holmgren, Viking Library System Representative,  
Pelican Rapids Schools  
Adell Bridgeford, School Library Representative, Walker Public Schools,  
emerita,  
Brent Andrews, Special Library Representative, Christiansen Memorial Library  
Hannah Buckland, Alternate Academic Library Representative, Leech Lake  
Tribal College  
Glenn Heineke, Alternate School Library Representative, Media Specialist  
Roseau School  
Lina Belar, Alternate Special Library Representative, Wadena County Historical  
Society

### **Northern Lights Library Network Executive Director FY18:**

Kathy B. Enger, M.L.S, Ph.D.

### **Northern Lights Library Network Office Manager FY18:**

Debra Keena