

Director's Report
Northern Lights Library Network
February 18, 2017
Kathy B. Enger



Interlibrary loan support for Viking Library System and bookmobile service to Campbell, Minnesota is ongoing. This first year of bookmobile service to Campbell-Tintah Schools resulted in 481 checkouts in 8.5 months. The total Traverse County circulation was 610, which means that Campbell-Tintah Schools almost doubled the circulation for the county.

Facilitating collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing among libraries throughout the NLLN region and the State of Minnesota, Executive Director Kathy Enger attended forty-five meetings statewide so far this year and is serving on the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) planning committee for the MDL summer conference.

Library Luncheon with Legislators

The Library Luncheon with Legislators is February 18, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 205 of the Comstock Memorial Union on the campus of Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM).

Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. MSUM President Ann Blackhurst and Northern Lights Library Network Board President, Wayne Ingersoll, will welcome us. Executive Director Kathy Enger will follow with a few words, and then we'll hear from seven librarians and library representatives: Hannah Bucklund, Director of the Leech Lake Tribal College Library; Barb Fabre, Director of the White Earth Early Childhood Program; Kristi Hanson, Director of the Northwest Regional Library System; Liz Lynch, Director of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System; Laura Probst, Director of the Concordia College Library; Larry Schwartz, Academic Librarian at Minnesota State University Moorhead; and Peg Werner, Director of the Viking Library System.

After the librarians speak, we will hear from the following legislators: Senator Kent Eken, Senator Mark Johnson, Representative Debra Kiel, and Representative Ben Lien. We truly appreciate the opportunity to share our stories.

Conversations with legislators, such as NLLN's, "Library Luncheon with Legislators", forms positive relationships between legislators and librarians, ensuring ongoing library support for constituents in our region. Librarians in our region actively seek ongoing support for libraries in order to improve service delivery and continue to serve citizens in the State of Minnesota adequately.

Libraries are at the core of a democratic society, defending the freedom of all citizens to access information to make informed decisions, to read material that interests them, to use technology successfully, and to engage in learning throughout the life cycle.

As valued and trusted civic resources, libraries bring people together to access knowledge through the use of physical space, technology, and skilled staff. Minnesota citizens from all walks of life and representing every socioeconomic group come together in libraries. Libraries bring people together in a nonpartisan way, and provide them with unbiased facts in an impartial environment.

The Life Achievement Award from Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) signifies a contribution to the NLLN region from a librarian or citizen who has given extraordinary service to libraries throughout a career. The award is given once a year upon the recommendation of the executive director or a governing board member.

The Life Achievement Award for this fiscal year goes to Peg Werner, who is retiring from Viking Library System as director after nearly three decades of service to Minnesota Libraries.

John Wallace Ingersoll Memorial Fund

The John Wallace Ingersoll Memorial Fund was established 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 will be used to support the programming of Northern Lights Library Network. Donations will recognize those honored with a biography in a directory and special recognition when the funds are dispersed in support of programming at Northern Lights Library Network.

John Wallace Ingersoll was born December 27, 1942 in Fargo, North Dakota to John and Ada (Holmes) Ingersoll. He grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota, with 2 younger brothers, Wayne (Moorhead) and Bruce (deceased). He graduated from Moorhead High School in 1961 and Moorhead Teachers College in 1965. He went to college to study German and part of course work was going to Germany to study. During one of his study trips to Germany, he met his future wife, Gretel Kleiner. They met at a Youth Hostel in Munich in the early 60's and fell in love. He brought her back to Moorhead with him a few years later and they got married in 1966. They moved to the Grand Rapids area where he taught German at the Grand Rapids High School, beginning in 1966. He established himself as a huge part of the community, always active in after school activities from detention to volleyball announcer to ticket taker at hockey games. You would always find him actively engaged with the school, students, and the community. In later years, he joined the Grand Rapids Police Reserve and worked as a volunteer traffic and crowd control as well as police patrols. After he retired from teaching German in Grand Rapids, he traveled to China and taught English there for five years. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting people and made life-long friends there.

You could always find John reading a book. He read two-to-four books a week, sometimes more. His passion for reading led him to volunteer at his granddaughter's elementary school library, where he shelved books and taught children the importance of reading. Even after his granddaughter graduated from elementary school, he continued to volunteer at the library for

many more years. Every week, he would be at the city library returning and checking out books. Even while traveling, he would visit the libraries in those cities to see what they were like and purchase a book to read.

His thirst for knowledge was never quenched. During summer breaks, he would either be taking a group of his students to Germany on a school-to-school student exchange program or he would be taking a summer course program to better educate himself. During his educational travels, he visited Duke University, the University of California, Davis, and the University of Oregon, to name a few. Every opportunity he had to learn something he would. He planned trips and saw as many historical sites and museums that he could squeeze in before getting to his destination. Everywhere he went he spoke with people, asked questions, made jokes, and always left more knowledgeable than when he arrived.

His legacy continues within his four sons: John Waldemar Ingersoll, and three grandchildren and one great grandchild in Saint Roberts, Missouri. Mark Thomas Ingersoll and three grandchildren in Phoenix, Arizona. Michael Frank Ingersoll and one grandchild in Richmond, Texas. Timothy David Ingersoll and two grandchildren in Luxembourg.

The Skills Media Specialists Impart to Students

Using qualitative grounded theory analysis, Executive Director Kathy Enger and Media Specialist, Glenn Heinecke, analyzed 2,240 pages of documents on media specialists in the library and information science literature to determine the skills media specialists impart to students. As media specialists in public schools have lost their positions, these skills, which focus on using information effectively, include information literacy, digital literacy, and library and information science -- skills that are necessary for student success in the electronic era. In the process of learning how to access information and use knowledge effectively, students read, write, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information in the online environment. Students without access to information are at a disadvantage, creating a social and digital divide that schools can mitigate by employing media specialists. The model is grounded in Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory.

On August 26th, the article was submitted to the *American Educational Research Journal (AERJ)*, and was rejected on September 30th. The editors felt the topic is valuable, but that the research is at an early stage and would be of most interest to a specialist audience. *AERJ* receives over 800 manuscripts each year, and can only publish about 7%. The article was then submitted to the journal, *Learning and Instruction*.

Executive Director Kathy Enger presented the research at the 96th Minnesota School Boards Association Annual Leadership Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center on January 13 with a session entitled, "Supporting Student Success in an Electronic Era". Here is the blurb from the program: "For years, schools have lost qualified media specialists or teacher librarians due to attrition from retirement, reassignment back to the classroom or lay-offs altogether. At the same time, it has been shown that students in schools with full-time certified media specialists do significantly better on standardized tests than students without certified media specialists or school librarians. This workshop will present research that shows the skills media

specialists impart to students and why those skills are beneficial to the full learning experience for students.”

Career development, professional engagement, scholarships, and library service funding is available for staff and library board member participation in continuing education programs, events, and participation at national and international conferences for library professionals in the region who may not be able to attend without the support of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). Continuing education scholarships are awarded as incentive for individual growth and development in order to enhance library services throughout the NLLN region.

Twenty-three scholarships have been committed so far this year for a total of approximately \$10,800. \$15,000 is budgeted.

Ongoing library administrative and technical support for the White Earth Child Care and Early Childhood Program and support of the Tribal College Libraries

Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) will support the *Festival of Fathers* on March 11th at the Event Center at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen by sending the LARL mascot, Booker, and one additional employee to the event, and there will encourage individuals to sign-up for library cards and the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program, which is geared toward youth ages 0-3. There will also be books to read aloud and Booker activity pages. The Maamigin Achigaazo would like to offer opportunities such as these and need an updated computer and scanner to do so.

Tribal College Library Directors

The tribal college library directors met before the MLA Fall Conference in Duluth at the Fond Du Lac Tribal Community College in Cloquet on September 28th. The tribal college library directors also met Tuesday, January 24, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon at the Leech Lake Tribal College Library in Cass Lake.

Online Destiny Training

Gina Drellack, Media Specialist and Education Services Coordinator with Northwest Service Cooperative in Thief River Falls developed an online Destiny Training program that library staff in the region can take online for continuing education credits through Schoology. So far, eighty-five people have participated in the Online Destiny Training. To participate,

Go to <https://www.schoology.com>

Sign up

Or login if you already have a Schoology account

Go to "Courses"

“Join”

Join the Destiny Training course by entering the course number: C37RB-M8TGX

Regional Get-Together and Workshop

A summer get-together of librarians in the region will take place at Lakes Country Service Cooperative in Fergus Falls on June 12th. Lynette Schwagerl from Campbell Schools and Glenn Heineck from Roseau Schools are planning the conference. Here is a working draft of the schedule:

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Morning coffee
9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Conversation and introductions
10 – 10:45 a.m. Session I
10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Session II
11:30 – 12:15 Session III Ottertail County Historical Society, Kathy Evavold and Missy Hermes
“Library Resources and Outreach Programs”
12:15 – 1 p.m. Lunch Keynote
Regional author Brent Olson
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Session IV, Carol Sibley IBBY and free books

SOLO Librarian Project provides resources for librarians from academic, public, school, and special libraries, including professional development tools, collection development tools, shelf maintenance, weeding, information literacy, annual conferences, and professional organizations. The site is brought to Minnesota librarians by the multicounty, multi-type library systems:

<http://mnmultitypes.wixsite.com/mysite>

MSUM Planetarium and Scholastic Family & Community Engagement Resources (FACE) Building Home Libraries

Access to books in the home is a key factor in determining a child’s future success. Children raised in homes with lots of books are nearly 20% more likely to finish college. Through Scholastic’s Family and Community Engagement Resources Building Home Libraries, NLLN purchased books at a discount and sent one home each to:

- Detroit Lakes 3rd graders on January 20th, *Journey through our Solar System* by Dr. Mae Jemison and Dana Meachen Rau was distributed.
- Annual Stars of PBS event on February 4th, NLLN donated *My Very First Space Book* books as door prizes.
- One World One Sky event with Moorhead Kindergarten in the spring will distribute, *My Very First Space Book* by Emily Bone, illustrated by Lee Cosgrove.

