

NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2019

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



Funded by the Minnesota legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education, 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, Northwest, and West-Central Minnesota.

We work 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) that includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahanomen, 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; Maamigin Achigaaazo Community Library at 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, 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 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. 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.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to recognize 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 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:

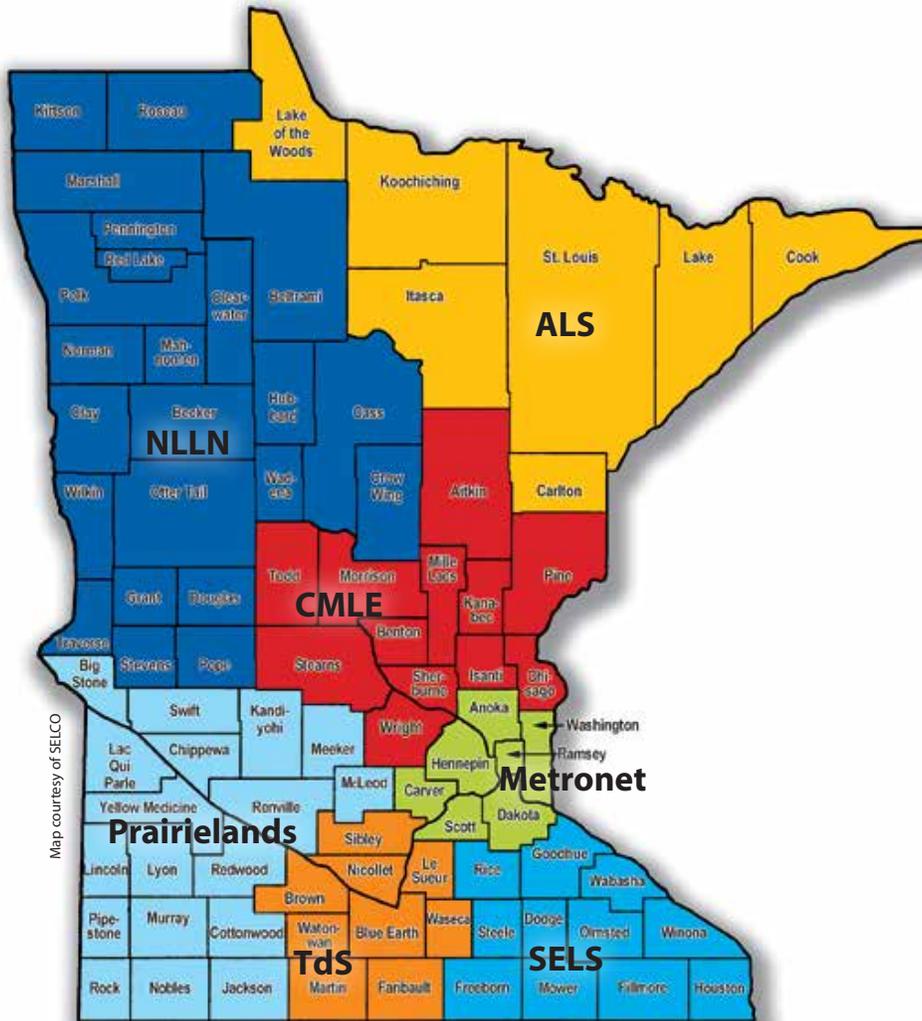
- Sharing Resources Among all Participating Libraries
- Providing Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs
- Developing a Delivery System for Services and Programs
- Developing of a Bibliographic Database
- Maintaining a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries

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.



Minnesota Multitype Library Cooperative Systems

The seven multicounty, multitype library systems provide critical links between the academic, public, school and special libraries in the state. Each multitype system responds to the needs of the librarians in its region by providing support services. Key areas in which these systems provide efficient, cost effective services include: consulting, communications, sharing of resources across all types of libraries, ongoing opportunities for professional and staff development, and assistance with strategic planning.



Map courtesy of SELCO

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MMLCS MULTI MAP
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Vision Statement

Libraries are attractive, welcoming places that are friendly, open, inclusive, accessible, innovative, and a source of community pride where people can go to learn what they need to know in order to thrive and grow in their communities. When libraries work together, communities grow stronger, and the lives of Minnesotans are enriched.

The main purpose of Northern Lights Library Network is to make all libraries in the region stronger.

NLLN'S Core Values

In principle and practice, libraries are at the core of a democratic society, defending the freedom of all citizens to:

- Access information to make informed decisions
- Read material that interests them
- Use technology successfully to learn about recent developments and to access resources
- Engage in learning throughout the life cycle

Libraries are inclusive environments that are accessible to all persons.

All who use our libraries and collections feel welcome.

Libraries and collections are well organized and easy to use.

Library user needs and interests are determined and once they are determined, we assist library users in learning how to use library resources to meet their needs and interests.

Libraries are bridges between physical and electronic access to information, bridges between people and technology, and bridges between the resources available and the community using those resources.

The purpose and benefits of libraries are communicated to citizens in the region. The inherent value of books is understood.

Ongoing, sustainable, and continuous library funding at the local, state, and national levels is defended and supported.



Viking Library System Support

Northern Lights Library Network sponsors \$5,000 a year for interlibrary loan support to libraries in the Viking Library System. Viking Library System also brings bookmobile service to Campbell, MN, which is located within the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System (LARL). Campbell would not receive bookmobile service without the ongoing support (\$600 this year) of Northern Lights Library Network. Also, NLLN recently contributed \$15,000 to the Viking Library System toward the purchase of a new bookmobile, which delivers books to libraries in the region with approximately eighty stops a week.

It is our hope that timely access to library materials in the NLLN region results in improved literacy rates and a better quality of life for citizens in the region.

Executive Director Kathy Enger traveled to forty-one meetings throughout the region and State of Minnesota during Fiscal Year 2019.

Traveling to libraries and meetings with librarians facilitates collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing among libraries throughout the NLLN region and Minnesota.

Northern Lights Library Network writes and maintains political and cultural directories in the region. A *Directory of Legislators in the NLLN Region* and an *Historical & Cultural Organizations and Museums Directory* in the NLLN Region may be accessed on the Northern Lights Library Network website at: nlln.org

As valued and trusted civic resources, libraries are in key positions to empower citizens to become actively engaged in the democratic process. Community engagement programming leads to optimism, individual well-being, and overall civic health. Libraries bring people together in nonpartisan ways and provide them with un-biased facts in impartial environments.

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

Adell Bridgeford's work in libraries began at Walker High School, where she was a library aide her senior year. After high school, Adell received undergraduate degrees from Bemidji State University in Library Science, Elementary Education, and Biology. She completed her Master's degree as a Media Specialist in Information and Technology from Mankato State University. Adell went on to serve Walker Hackensack School District as media specialist for thirty-seven years, beginning and ending her career there. She dedicated twenty-five years to Spotlight on Books, served on the Northern Lights Library Network board for six years, and is active in NLLN's Train-the-Trainers program, most recently securing funds to bring library resources back into Walker High School.

The Life Achievement Award went to Carol Sibley, MSUM, in 2014; Barbara "Babs" Larson, Warroad, in 2015; and Peg Werner, Viking Library System, in 2017.

John Wallace Ingersoll and Joan Ballard Larson Foundation Fund

The foundation fund honors current and past NLLN Governing Board members and current and past NLLN members.

This year, Joan Ballard Larson was added to NLLN's Foundation Fund. Joan Ballard Larson graduated from Alexandria High School in 1947. Later, when Joan's family lived in Montana, Joan worked as the Branch Librarian in Browning, MT. Joan earned a bachelor's degree and eventually a master's degree in library science at the University of Maine, where she served in an assistant librarian position at the university. In 1983, Joan accepted the position of director of the Northern Lights Library Network. Joan loved her job and retired at the age of 72.

Joan served on the board of the Douglas County Friends of the Library, past-president of the Minnesota Library Association, American Library Association, Minnesota Educational Media Organization, board of directors for the Minnesota Association for Library Friends for 10 years, and a local branch of the American Association of University Women. Joan was recognized for her dedication and many accomplishments with the President's Award and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Minnesota Library Association, Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Educational Media Organization, and the Library Friend of the Year from the Minnesota Association of Library Friends.

Northern Lights Library Network develops activities that strengthen libraries and bring all libraries together.

Roseau School. Executive Director Kathy Enger worked at the Roseau School Library November 26 – November 28, assisting with collection weeding, weeding approximately 1,500-2,000 titles in the nonfiction and reference collections.

ITEM Strategic Planning. NLLN sponsored the Willow meeting room at Grand Casino Hinckley for the strategic planning meeting for Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) on Saturday, January 12, 2019.

Libraries Serving Youth Meet-up

NLLN sponsored the annual Libraries Serving Youth Meet-up at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on Tuesday, April 16, from 9 a.m. – noon. Leah Larson from State Library Services hosted the event.

Alternative Career Pathways

NLLN participated in writing a Sourcewell grant that will bring Electronic Library of Minnesota and training to Walker High School. Resources for the high school library, such as magazines and newspapers, are also included in the grant. Walker High School has been without a full service library for several years. Chris Chastek, Walker High School, and Adell Bridgeford, Walker High School (retired), are working on this initiative with the support of Northern Lights Library Network.

ACRL Assessment in Action

NLLN sponsored the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Assessment in Action workshop for the tri-college (Minnesota State University Moorhead, Concordia, and North Dakota State University) on March 28th. The workshop trained participants on strategic and sustainable assessment techniques grounded in action research.

NLLN Supports Library Research

Executive Director Kathy Enger continues to review for College & Research Libraries (C&RL); she judged submissions for the NDSU Writing Challenge, a writing program for undergraduates; served on the 2019 Minnesota Digital Library Annual Meeting committee; presented Essential Key Components to Successful Student Engagement in Online Learning at the University of Minnesota eLearning Summit on August 2, 2018; and presented Tweet Truth at the education technology conference, Sourcewell Technology (formerly TIES), on December 11, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Research informs practice. A research foundation gives librarians theoretical support for practice and supports the value of their work.

Eighteen scholarships were awarded for individual academic, school, and public librarians in the region for the following continuing education opportunities: A presentation at the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) conference in Greece; course work toward a Master's in Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree; a presentation at the International Literacy Association (ILA) conference in Austin, Texas; higher education research and visits in China; the fall Minnesota Library Association (MLA) conference in St. Cloud, the TIES winter conference "Just Imagine" in Minneapolis, and the fall Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) conference in St. Cloud.

Gail Hedstrom, public librarian from Elbow Lake, received a scholarship toward a Master's in Library and Information Science at St. John's University. This is what she said about her scholarship:

"I am enjoying working on my master's degree in library and information science. While sometimes it seems like a daunting endeavor, I truly love every minute of the process. The financial support and encouraging words from NLLN mean a great deal to me."

NLLN Provided Ojibwe books and two homemade quilts made by Kathy Enger and Kari Anderson of Alexandria for Holiday Book Drive with White Earth Early Childhood program. Thank you to Jean Kramer, MSUM; Carol Sibley, MSUM; Barnesville Public Library staff; LARL Director, Liz Lynch; and Concordia College Library Director, Laura Probst, for donating books for the drive.

Executive Director Kathy Enger picked-up books at **Richfield Public Schools donated to Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school** and delivered the books to Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school in Bena.

NLLN 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, upholds dignity, and creates prosperity.

The Third Annual “Better Together” workshop, an area workshop for school library and media specialists, librarians of all types, and area educators was held at Lakes Country Service Cooperative on June 6, 2019. Ten amazing area professionals from all types of fields presented. There were presentations about Asian refugee fiction, Minnesota Historical Society resources for teacher and librarians, artist mentorship programs, “Young Adult Literature for Elementary and Middle Schoolers”, and technology tools for media specialists. Additionally, two Minnesota authors, Lin Enger and Leif Enger, spoke about the role of rural Minnesota in their novels. Five Continuing Education Credits were given to participants. The workshop ran from 8:30 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. Free children’s books were provided by Carol Sibley through the Comstock-Gag Read Aloud Program at MSUM.

The Third Annual “Better Together” workshop was sponsored by Campbell-Tintah Public Schools; The Comstock-Gag Read Aloud Program at Minnesota State University Moorhead; Fargo Public Schools; The John Wallace Ingersoll Foundation Fund; Lakes Country Service Cooperative; Lake Region Arts Council; Laurie Conzemius, LLC; Minnesota Historical Society; Minnesota State University Moorhead; Northern Lights Library Network; and Roseau Public Schools.

Thank you to the following presenters who volunteered their time:
Lynette Schwagerl, Glenn Heinecke, Aleta Sanford, Carol Sibley, Pam Werre, Matt Horstman, Rebecca Davis, Lin Enger, Leif Enger, Louie Lauer, Laurie Conzemius.

Participants from the following libraries attended the workshop: Walker High School, Fisher School, St. Joseph School, Rothsay Public School, Breckenridge Elementary, Menahga High School, Wheaton School, Warren-Alverado-Oslo School, Henning School, Hawley Public Library, Norman County West Elementary School, Browns Valley School, Detroit Lakes Public Library, Breckenridge High School, Morris Public Schools, Morris Public Library, Pequot Lakes Public School, Ashby Public School, Elbow Lake Library, Osakis Public School.

We’re building communities; learning is at the center of what we do; reading is our heart-felt passion—we share a vision of creating literacy, altogether.

Mini-“Better Together” workshops were held on August 13 and September 29, both at Lakes Country Service Cooperative. The first was presented by Carla Pfahl from Minitex on Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) and the second was presented by Glenn Heinecke, Melanie Holmquist, Sheri Levasseur and Laurie Conzemius on the Destiny catalog. A special thank you to the voluntary work of the presenters and to Roseau Community School, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, Pequot Lakes Public School, Park Rapids Public Schools and Minitex.

Educators from the following schools participated in the August 13th workshop: St. Joseph School in Moorhead, Underwood Public Schools, Lake Park-Audubon Schools, Detroit Lakes High School, Perham High School, Heart of Lakes Elementary in Perham, Prairie Wind Middle School in Perham, Minnewaska Area Schools, Breckenridge High School, Parkers Prairie High School, Roseau School, and Campbell Tintah Schools.

The following schools were represented at the Destiny training: Breckenridge High School, Heart of Lakes Elementary in Perham, Menahaga High School, Cleveland Elementary in Fergus Falls, Central Elementary in Bemidji, Naytahwaush School, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Barnesville School, Warroad School, Lancaster School District #356, Ortonville School, Minnewaska Area Schools, Lake park-Audubon Schools, Barnesville Schools, Browns Valley School, Underwood School, Perham High School, Menahga High School, Moorhead High School, Bagley School, Morris Area Elementary School, Norman County West Public Schools, Wadena Deer Creek Public Schools.

Glenn Heinecke provided onsite Destiny training at St. Joseph’s School in Moorhead and Breckenridge Public School in August. Adell Bridgeford is providing ongoing, on-site Destiny assistance at Walker Public School.

Northern Lights Library Network sponsored an **ELM Expo** in Detroit Lakes on September 21st.

NLLN supported Pelican Rapids High School Library to bring students to the movie, ***The Hate U Give***, in Fargo on October 26th.

NLLN sponsored **Minnesota Book Award author visits** to Fergus Falls, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, and Moorhead through the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library (Minnesota Center for the Book) Moving Words program, whereby award-winning authors (from the Minnesota Book Awards) visit communities in Minnesota.

Carol Sibley, Pam Werre, and Shireen Alemadi requested and received support from NLLN for **“Minnesota Remembers Vietnam: The Many Voices of the Vietnam Era”** to bring authors Thi Bui and Bao Phi to the MSUM campus. Executive Director Kathy Enger introduced the authors on the Gaede Stage on April 8th and NLLN Communication Director (Intern), Aleta Sanford, introduced the authors to MSUM undergraduate students in courses on April 8 and 9.

Professors Sibley and Werre completed research on books published since the end of the Vietnam War that highlight Hmong or Vietnamese characters. Sibley and Werre presented a poster on Southeast Asian literature at the International Board on Books for

Young People's bi-annual conference in Athens, Greece, last summer. The work by Bao Phi and Thi Bui were central to their presentation. Two bibliographies representing Carol and Pam's research, *Children Caught in the Crossfire: Children's and Young Adult Refugee Fiction* and *Best of Vietnamese and Hmong Fiction and Memoirs* were available for free in the Gaede Theatre foyer. Continuing Education Credit Certificates from NLLN were available for teachers attending the presentation.

Training and onsite assistance for librarians in the region and state assists them in keeping up with changes in the library environment using practical adult learning principles linked to skill-building, whereby:

- Learning is self-directed
- 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 between trainers and learners.

The theoretical model used for NLLN's training is Vygotsky's (1978) Social Constructivist Theory. Professional growth occurs when problem solving skills are employed throughout the training process, new ideas are introduced and used, and supportive trainers assist professionals in achieving an understanding of new technological skills that directly improve practice. The participant-centered model uses interactive and experiential activities, including electronic tool usage, skills practice, and discussion. Skills are built through sharing and dialogue. Participants in the program believe that support from colleagues and sharing best practices result in improved student achievement. Garmston and Wellman (1999) and Gusky (1986) show that the most effective mode of professional development and the most powerful method to enhance colleagues' practice is through coaching in daily practice.

eBook Access for Middle and High School Students

Many students living within the counties served by **Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL)** and **Northwest Regional Library (NWRL)** have been issued iPads or tablets by their schools. LARL and NWRL have seen a steady increase in the use of eBook collections. Teachers and media specialists from across the region have contacted LARL and NWRL, asking how their students can obtain access to eBooks. LARL and NWRL are encouraging schools, teachers, and students to register for LARL and NWRL library cards to access the eBook services provided to them through their public library. eBook access enhances efforts schools make to provide content rich materials to students. NLLN gave \$5,000 to LARL and \$5,000 to NWRL to support eBook access.

eAudio book access for citizens in the Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS).

As eAudio technology has increased, Kitchimigami Regional Library System has seen a dramatic increase in the use of eAudio books by young adults, adults, and seniors, yet, there is frustration among constituents because there are limited eAudio materials

available in the KRLS region. The demand for eAudio books is outstripping Kitchigami's ability to provide them. NLLN supported KRLS with \$5,000 to support eAudio access in the Kitchigami region.

Support for the NorthStar Union Destiny Library Catalog

NLLN brings libraries without online catalogs into the online Destiny system, supports the 112 libraries in the NorthStar Library Destiny Catalog union catalog, and provides ongoing training for the 112 libraries using Destiny in the NorthStar network.

Access to online bibliographic materials using the Online Computer Library Center

(OCLC) Union Catalog for cataloging 1,600 records. NLLN supports cataloging fees for membership to the OCLC CatExpress group subscription for Northwest Regional Library, Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, Kittson School Media Center, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School, Breckenridge High School District, Clearbrook-Gonvick High School, Ada-Borup Public School, Independent School District 435, Audubon High School Media Center, Perham-Dent Public School, Holy Rosary School, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Grygla School Media Center, Bemidji Public School, Park Rapids High School, Northland Community Schools ISD #118, Circle of Life School, St. Joseph's School, Lancaster public School, Tri-County School, Mahnommen Public School, Frazee-Vergas School, Pine River Backus Public School, Badger School, Blackduck Public School, and White Earth Tribal & Community College Library.

NLLN Facilitates Communication among all Member Libraries in the Region by developing and maintaining membership lists and electronic methods of communication among NLLN members through Listbox, email, Facebook, between and among members. Voluntary efforts by MSUM student, Aleta Sanford, NLLN's Communication Director (Intern) and the work by NLLN's Office Manager, Debra Keena, have proven invaluable.

The work completed by Northern Lights Library Network is made possible through the voluntary efforts of its members and with yearly appropriations of approximately \$218,000 from the Minnesota legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).
