

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Among the seven multicounty, multitype library systems from the FY2024 Report of Results

Professional development for librarians occurs throughout the State of Minnesota, ensuring librarians have the tools necessary to provide robust services to the communities they serve and effectively respond to diverse community needs as they evolve. Cooperation among libraries leverages resources and those of partner organizations for further reach and greater outcomes. Each of the seven multicounty multitype library systems serve specific areas of Minnesota, resulting in innovative service at the local level, and allowing quick and direct response to local needs.

Professional development initiatives for librarians in Minnesota are on the cutting edge of emerging technologies, from the early days of establishing online union catalogs to the most recent use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and Information Literacy. Altogether, Minnesotans receive up-to-date services through the innovative learning tools provided by libraries through educated and prepared librarians.

Over 1,700 libraries are served through professional development initiatives in Minnesota.

Total Attendees at Professional Development Workshops: 4,350

Total Professional Development Workshops: 130

Continuing education scholarships are awarded to librarians from libraries of all types to attend state and national conferences, webinars, and online classes.

Total Continuing Education Scholarships: 146

Professional Library Collection Circulation: 358 circulations

Continuing Education Programs: School Library Professional Learning Community, coordinated and facilitated regular meetings of school library staff to share best practices, tools, and ideas; Book Share & Learnabouts webinars on Google Tools; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Metronet Information Literacy Initiative (MILI), monthly Library Leadership Forum online professional development book discussion; TeenTober ALA event celebrating teens, libraries, and the community; Teen Summer Read Program; author visits to local libraries; accessibility to patrons with disabilities; Creativebug; First Friday in February Online Conference: de-escalation techniques, breathe, stay calm; responding to book challenges; challenges and crises; Camp Read-A-Lot focused on children's literacy; Teen Programming Kits; Media Landscapes: 23 Things online course; Native American Literature: American Indian History and Culture; Libraries and Indigenous Nations: Celebrating Cultures, Empowering Communities, Honoring Traditions; "Better Together"; Brainfuse HelpNow and JobNow; library professional development collection available to all libraries in Minnesota through MNLINK; developed online videos and trainings.

Electronic communication with libraries of all types throughout the State of Minnesota facilitates ongoing, up-to-date information on advances in the library and information science profession, including weekly newsletters to help libraries connect with authentic information on library topics, news, resources and information. Professional development is possible through consistent and ongoing communication with all 1,700 member libraries.

Commitment to the Minnesota library community occurs through participation in the Minnesota Library Learning Network, MLA committees, Minitex, and organizations across the Minnesota map that results in exponential opportunities to share staff development resources.