

Northern Lights Library Network
Director's Report
Kathy Brock Enger, Executive Director
December 11, 2022

Destiny Training, October 30, 2021. Glenn Heinecke led a Destiny Training in Room LI208 of the Livingston Lord Library at Minnesota State University Moorhead from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on October 30th. Anyone managing and operating a Destiny catalog was invited to attend, there was no charge to attend, and attendees received continuing education credit. Glenn covered Destiny basics and discussed solutions for operating the Destiny system. School library specialists shared useful practices and discussed the challenges they face as paraprofessionals managing libraries. Several professionals attending noted that even though they have graduate education in library media, and extensive experience as media specialists, they are hired and paid as paraprofessionals. Thank you to Glenn Heinecke for all of the remarkable work he does for library specialists in our region. Thank you to MSUM for hosting the training. Library specialists from the following schools attended: Moorhead Public Schools, Crookston, Parkers Prairie, Laporte, Breckenridge, Menahga, Detroit Lakes, Marshall County Central.

Monthly Zoom Conversations with Librarians in the Region. Lynette Schwagerl and Glenn Heinecke continue to lead conversations among librarians in our region during one day during the last week of each month at 4 p.m. The meetings take place on Zoom. Lynette Schwagerl is librarian and English teacher at Campbell School and Glenn Heinecke is librarian and teacher at Roseau School. Both lead NLLN's yearly, "Better Together" workshop. We use this time to connect with each other, discuss our successes and challenges from recent months, and provide ideas and support for each other as we prepare for the future. One especially valuable recent conversation focused on getting easy reading books to students who struggle to read. A membership-wide conversation ensued where many useful ideas were shared among school library specialists.

eBooks for Regional Library Systems. A check for \$5,000 has been sent to Lake Agassiz Region Library System (LARL) to support the purchase of eBooks. Northwest Regional Library System (NWRL) has been contacted several times to provide support, but NLLN hasn't received a response.

Ongoing Support for Ojibwe Collections. The Circle of Life Academy (COLA) at White Earth needed graphic novels. As NLLN's ongoing commitment for developing Ojibwe library collections in the region, NLLN purchased graphic novels for COLA. In conversations with people at COLA, it has been noted that COLA's library shelves are full of books. It's a joy to learn that the shelves are full, when the library closed, then reopened several years ago. NLLN was on hand to help with the reopening.

Diversifying Library Collections. Metronet sponsored an ALA statewide online training on diversifying library collections and on creating library antiracist library environments. Several librarians from the NLLN region were able to participate at no charge.

Media Landscapes Training (23 Things). This is a misinformation/disinformation online training sponsored by the Multicounty, Multitype Library Systems and Minitex at no charge to participants: <https://levelupmn.org/23things/>

NLLN contracted with a new accounting firm, Olsen, Thielen, CPAs. They were the only firm to respond to NLLN's bid. Olsen, Thielen, CPAs replaces LeAnn Erickson and Mosiac Consulting, who did NLLN's accounting, previously. Thank you to Mosiac Consulting and LeAnn Erickson for their support for many years.

David and Marily Bengston donated five boxes of books to libraries in the region. David was an English teacher at Long Prairie Public Schools for his career and Marilyn was the choir director for hers.

The Wesley Hospital Building and Wadena County Historical Society. Lina Belar, the director of the Wadena County Historical Society, is working with local organizations to consider using the soon vacant Wesley Hospital Building to house the Wadena County Historical Society. NLLN supports this initiative.

Story Walks and DVD donation from State Library Services. State Library Services is moving to a new location on Stinson Parkway area of Mpls. As a result of the move, they donated story walks and DVDs to libraries in the NLLN region. Once the pandemic becomes an less eminent, NLLN will bring donated resources to libraries in the region.

Comstock-Gag Read Aloud Book Awards. NLLN is represented on the Comstock-Gag Read Aloud Book Award committee this year. Children's books are honored for exceptional presentation when reading aloud.

Library Strategies Consulting. Periodically, Executive Director, Kathy Enger, will be available for consulting with Library Strategies.