



**Northern Lights Library Network
Director's Report
Kathy B. Enger, Executive Director
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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.

***Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) shares resources among all participating libraries in the region.** Access to library materials in the NLLN region results in improved literacy rates and a better quality of life for citizens in the 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.*

Resource Exchange. Libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region undergo on-going collection management procedures that result in the deselection of books and other library resources. Many private collections in the region are also in need of library homes. Other libraries in the region may need these materials. NLLN facilitates the exchange of materials among libraries by listing the items on NLLN's listerv and shipping through the Minitex Delivery System. There is no remuneration for the materials offered. The exchange includes academic, school, and special libraries in the region.

Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) donated about one thousand CD's and DVD's to NLLN for a library or libraries in the region. Before the pandemic, Clearbrook Gonvick School district requested them, so they were sent from MSUM to the library at Bemidji State University, where they were held for pick-up from Clearbrook Gonvick. The media was not picked-up before the shutdown. Once libraries partially opened up, Clearbrook Gonvick School no longer needed them (the teacher who requested them left), so Bemidji State returned the media to MSUM, where the tapes are waiting in the NLLN office until they can be sent out, again, once the pandemic is over.

Database of Funders. Northern Lights Library Network has contracted with Access Philanthropy to provide a full list of library, regional, and Minnesota relevant funders to all NLLN's members. NLLN members will have 24/7 online access to a list of 100+ relevant library

fundings, 200+ general operating fundings, and 50+ non-traditional fundings, all of whom fund in Minnesota, such as general library fundings, literacy and community reading programs, library equipment, eBook fundings, homework supports, limited vision supports, technical equipment, and specialty interests, such as children's authors, art collections, and collections that represent diversity.

The lists will be resident on the Access Philanthropy server and website, maintained by Access Philanthropy's research crew. A link to the database will be on NLLN's website. Profiles will be updated biannually.

Grant-writing for eBooks. Northern Lights Library Network is also contracting with Access Philanthropy for grant-writing support to begin in 2021. NLLN is particularly interested in funding for eBook collections through the four regional public library systems in the region and has the support of the four regional directors to seek funding to support their eBook collections.

Broadsides. The Livingston Lord Library at Minnesota State University Moorhead is in the process of displaying the broadsides NLLN donated to them. The signed and numbered broadsides were created by Patrick Vincent, former professor of visual arts at MSUM and are for sale for \$25 each to raise funds for NLLN's scholarship fund. The following are NLLN's broadsides:

At the Library by Lina Belar

Carnegie Libraries by Dr. Kenneth Bennett

The Longest Hour by Professor Travis Dolence

Birch Bark Biting by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere

North of North by Professor Emeritus Mark Vinz

Used Poetry by Professor Kevin Zepper

Moving Words. NLLN will be supporting *Moving Words* from the Minnesota Book Awards to bring award winning authors to the region.

NLLN supports literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in the region. *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.*

Career development, professional engagement, and scholarships. Several scholarships have been awarded for online learning opportunities. Library staff attendance at local, regional, national, and international conferences generates new ideas and best library practices among colleagues and library constituents.

Support for Tribal College Libraries in the Region. Recently, Jane Berg, the librarian at White Earth Tribal and Community College reached out to NLLN for advice on making more space in the library for a student success center. David Crutchfield, a Professor of Architecture at North Dakota State University, volunteered to advise on the project and is actively examining drawings to determine if movable shelving is an option, or if the collection could be housed in another location at the college.

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

Monthly Online Conversations with Librarians in the Region. Lynette and Glenn are leading conversations among librarians in our region on the third Wednesday 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.

Lynette says this about November's conversation: There was some good discussion at the library Zoom meeting yesterday! We had 8 people in attendance. Main topics were quarantining books (people shared what they were doing at this time) and various Destiny questions (placing holds, rating books, using Destiny Discover, etc.). People shared ideas and experiences to help others in the group.

Becoming an Author Writing Seminar. Gina Drellack, Educational Consultant with Northwest Service Cooperative, will be offering another writing seminar on Saturday, April 17th. The seminar will take place online.

The last writing seminar hosted by Gina took place last summer and was well attended and appreciated. The seminar is open to anyone interested in participating.

We're bringing together an interest in writing along with an opportunity to publish.

The idea for a writing seminar open-to-all originated when Gina and I discussed how we might let people in our region know about the **Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project (MLPP)**, which is sponsored by academic and public libraries in the state. We could offer training on the resource, alone, but wanted to embellish it with more substantive material. Since Gina has a Certificate in Writing from Berkeley, it made sense that she offer a writing seminar, along with training on the **Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project (see: <https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/>)**. So, she offered a successful writing seminar last July and is interested and willing to offer another this coming April 17th.

In the meantime, Gina is developing an online tutorial on the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project, sponsored by Northwest Service Cooperative, Minitex, and Northern Lights Library Network, which will be available to you, soon. More information on both projects to follow.

There are so many valuable resources in our region, most importantly: **people**. It's so generous of our colleagues to share their talents and to share with us the resources they know could be beneficial to all. Thank you!

***NLLN seeks to increase access to books for citizens in the NLLN region.** Reading increases understanding and improves lives. Reading newspapers, magazines, journals, and books gives readers information they can use to improve their health, well-being, and lead to satisfying lives. Reading expands possibilities and promises experiences beyond the scope of every-day life.*

eBooks for regional library systems. Checks for \$5,000/each have been sent to Northwest Regional Library System and to Lake Agassiz Region Library System to support the purchase of eBooks. eBook support for the Kitchigami Regional Library System and the Viking Library System will be sent in February, 2021.

Hoopla for the Wheaton Public Library. NLLN is supporting the Wheaton Public Library for access to Hoopla, again, this year. Hoopla is a digital media service offered by public libraries with access to movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and TV shows.

Bring libraries without online catalogs into the online Destiny system, support the 112 libraries in the NorthStar Library Destiny Catalog union catalog, provide ongoing training for the 112 libraries using Destiny in the NorthStar network.

NorthStar Union Destiny Library Catalog. Bemidji School system libraries are considering a move to the NorthStar Union catalog.

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. NLLN 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 covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (Minnesota is comprised of 86,939 square miles), including the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnommen, 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 Achigaazo 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. 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.

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 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.”

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 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.

There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries.