

**Director's Report
Northern Lights Library Network
February 15, 2020**



Sourcewell Donates Books to Walker High School

Walker High School received several hundred books from a grant through Sourcewell in Staples, recently. The books are circulating among students in English classes.

“We are so happy to be circulating books among students who love to read, books that are interesting, lively, and colorful”, says Chris Chastek, the English teacher responsible for writing the grant from Sourcewell that brought the books into the school. Chris had a little help from former media specialist, Adell Bridgeford, and Northern Lights Library Network Executive Director, Kathy Enger: “While so much information is only an online search away, we are finding that students still like to get their hands on books to read. We’re grateful to Sourcewell for the opportunity to get books into the hands of students at Walker High School.”

In addition to sharing books, a trainer from **eLibrary Minnesota** will visit the high school to teach students and teachers how to use **eLibrary Minnesota**, an online resource that is free to all Minnesotans: <https://elibrarymn.org/>

While access to resources on the Internet provide a wide range of information, **eLibrary Minnesota** actually gives access to knowledge, or databases with peer reviewed journal articles containing scientific data; and to magazines and newspaper articles that publish material that has been ‘fact-checked’.

Collaborative Efforts Reopen the Circle of Life Academy Library at White Earth

Many people have come together to reopen the school library at the Circle of Life Academy (COLA) in White Earth. While most classrooms at the Academy circulate books, staff and students were missing one central place to gather and read, so they decided to reopen the school library, which was closed several years ago when media specialist Sue Walther retired.

Reopening a library is no small task, but people key to reopening the library were motivated: “It’s for the children -- already, we’re circulating books to every student. Some students are reading everything they can”, said Sharon Stalboeger at the library reopening last fall. Students like Briana Roberts helped with the reopening.

Instrumental to a library reopening is the expertise required to code books for cataloging and circulation. Chris McArthur, a retired media specialist from Waubun School District, took up the challenge and volunteered to codify and organize all the books in the library. As a result of the joint effort, students are now able to select rich material to read on their own. Without McArthur's expertise, it would have been much more difficult to start over.

McArthur was one of the first pioneers to establish the NorthStar Library Consortium, a union catalog for schools in the state. McArthur has worked closely with Northern Lights Library Network over the years to ensure that schools have access to library collections through the consortium.

The library has an admirable collection of Ojibwe titles that remained in the library throughout its transitions. The library overlooks a small lake, with full floor to ceiling windows, and supporting stone beams. It is truly a treasure.

Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Presentation January 17 at the Minneapolis Convention Center

Executive Director, Kathy Enger, presented research at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference January 17th, entitled, *Leading Students to the Future with the Literacy Skills they Need*. The roundtable was well attended and there was a lot of discussion around the need for libraries and librarians in schools. One board member even asked, "Can I hug you?" She encouraged me to keep doing the work we're doing, *because it's about equity for rural Minnesotans*.

Kathy received an email from Katie Klanderud, Director of Board Development at MSBA, thanking us for our participation:

“On behalf of the MSBA Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank you for your round table presentation at MSBA's 2020 Leadership Conference. The round tables have proven to be a highlight for the attendees.

We appreciate your time, effort, and willingness to share your expertise with our members and guests.

Please share our appreciation with those who worked with you in making your presentation a success.”

Best regards,
Katie Klanderud, Director
Board Development

Leading Students to the Future with the Literacy Skills they Need Handout

- It is becoming imperative for students to know if what they are reading online is true or not.
- How do students know if what they read on We Chat, Facebook, Instagram, and other social platforms is true?
- Social media is as influential as main stream media in shaping student thinking.

Students learn the literacy skills they need for current and future effectiveness from school librarians or certified media specialists. In the process of learning how to access reliable information and knowledge, students analyze, evaluate, and synthesize the material they find online. Media specialists teach these skills.

WHAT LITERACY SKILLS DO STUDENTS NEED AS THEY FACE THE FUTURE?

- Digital Literacy Skills
- Information Literacy Skills
- Reading Skills

DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS FOR K-12 STUDENTSMaterial originating from online sources requires the ability to analyze the source to determine its validity and reliability and synthesize it in order to create an internal framework and understand its meaning. Skills associated with digital literacy include aggregating, analyzing, and synthesizing information from online sources such as:

- Social media platforms, blogs, email, wikis, and other accessible online sources.

In addition, digital literacy skills include basic electronic communication skills such as keyboarding, word processing, communicating clearly and effectively through email, and how to search online effectively are necessary for students in K-12.

How do students know if what they find online is true?

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Information literacy skills are at the heart of academic work and basic to how we come to know what we know. Published research articles require valid and reliable data analysis and include a peer review process before they are published. Scholars publishing research draw from existing published research articles to build their own work and most research articles include a literature review of existing research studies that pass a peer review process. Hence, when we read published research, the articles we read have gone through a rigorous process to reach publication.

Unlike searching any and all sources online, which produces information, finding and using research articles produces knowledge.

It is these resources that students need to find to produce their own academic work and meet core academic standards. These resources are found in electronic databases, which can be expensive. However, in Minnesota, all Minnesotans have access to *eLibrary Minnesota*, which gives us access to articles for free. See: <https://elibrarymn.org/>

Some of the full-text articles found through searching online databases are available online, but many are not. In these cases, it is essential to have a collection of journals. Students need to be taught the skills necessary to locate and use research articles. This process is called “Information Literacy”.

In addition, databases give access to newspapers and magazines, which are more reliable sources of information than the material produced through an online search. Valid, reliable, truthful information is not free, but proprietary, and copyrighted.

READING SKILLS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Reading skills are basic and essential for all students. School librarians represent these skills and give access to reading collections that build reading skills.

Upcoming Workshops Sponsored by Northern Lights Library Network
There is no charge for these workshops. Each workshop accrues six CEUs.

“Better Together” Workshop **Led by Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl**

Bringing Together Library Specialists -- Media Specialists -- Librarians – Educators: To learn from one another, to reflect on the work we share, and to discuss best teaching and learning practices.

Let’s build a culture of reading together!

Thursday, June 11, 2020

8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

1001 East Mount Faith

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

To register, send an email to: Kathy.Enger@nlln.org

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Introduction and Conversation

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Indigenous Representations Summary: How to Select, Analyze, and include Indigenous Youth Literature in Libraries and Classrooms

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Lunch
Super Taco Bar. \$5 Suggested Donation

12:15 – 1 p.m.
Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Visiting Bob: Poems Inspired by the Life and Work of Bob Dylan
Alan Davis and Thom Tammoro, Authors

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Mini ELM Expo.
Linda Mork
Electronic Library of Minnesota

3 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Door Prizes and Evaluation

There are approximately 150 children and young adult books to give away among participants from the Dr. Shari Scapple collection, the Cathy Davis collection, and the Wanda Gag Book Awards.

**Tri-College University Libraries: Free Staff Development Opportunity Open to all
Library Staff in the NLLN Region**

Wednesday, April 1, Minnesota State University Moorhead MSUM

All library staff in the NLLN region are invited to this year's Tri-College staff development training. This all-day workshop will be open to employees of public, academic, school, and special libraries in the region. We encourage libraries to send teams to the workshop.

Tri-College members include Concordia College Moorhead, Minnesota State University Moorhead MSUM, Minnesota State Community and Technical College MState, North Dakota State College of Science NDSCS, and North Dakota State University NDSU.

Plan on attending the workshop. Registration information will follow, shortly.

The focus of the workshop is on diversity, equity, and inclusion, facilitated by Anne Phibbs, president of *Strategic Diversity Initiatives: Training, Consulting, and Directions*. See: www.strategicdi.com

The mission of Strategic Diversity Initiatives: Training, Consulting, and Direction is: “*Creating equitable and inclusive spaces, workplaces, and organizations, where every person is understood, valued, and given the opportunity to thrive.*”

Together, we can create environments that will advance our organizations' diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts "with an approach that is strategic and sustainable". We can be part of initiatives that create more inclusion, more equity.

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact Joe Mocnik, josip.mocnik@ndsu.edu, Martina Haines, martina.haines@mnstate.edu, or Laura Probst, lprobst@cord.edu.

The workshop is sponsored by the Tri-College University, Minitex, Online Dakota information Network ODIN, and Northern Lights Library Network NLLN.

"Youth Voice Choice" Transforming Teen Services: A Train-the-Trainer Approach

Friday, June 5

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blackduck School

Led by Leah Larson, State Library Services

- Building relationships with youth ages 8-18
- Receive training on stages of youth development and how to develop effective programs to serve them.

In collaboration with ALA YALSA/COSLA, and an IMLS grant.

"Becoming an Author"

Writing Seminar

Saturday, July 25, 2020

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Farm by the Lake

Bagley, Minnesota

Led by Gina Drellack

Northwest Service Cooperative

If you are interested in writing, whether writing a blog, a memoir, poetry, screen play, or any other writing endeavor, we'd like to support your interest with a free full-day writing seminar at *Farm by the Lake* near Bagley, Minnesota (17797 366th St, Bagley, MN 56621).

Farm by the Lake is a retreat center on Lake Lomond, with beautiful grounds that provide a backdrop for introspection and inspiration. Lakeview Cabin.

The seminar will include brief writing instruction segments and free writing time on the grounds of *Farm by the Lake* -- the focus of the seminar will be on your work, with time to write throughout the day.

While you will take time to devote a day to writing, you will also be taught how to use the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project to publish your own work.

Minnesota's Regional Public Library systems and Academic Libraries support a self-publishing platform called the **Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project**. See:

<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/>

Gina Drellack will lead the seminar. Gina holds a Certificate in Writing from the University of California, Berkeley; a Master's degree in Educational Media Technology, and is a Certified Life Coach. Drellack is a certified teacher and Education Service Consultant with Northwest Service Cooperative.

To register, send an email to Kathy Enger, Executive Director, Northern Lights Library Network:

Kathy.Enger@nlln.org

Bring your own notebook, lunch, and laptop (optional).

The workshop is sponsored by *Farm by the Lake*

<https://www.bagleymn.us/?SEC=ED172272-5234-49F0-8DD4-3BEE23657EA9>

Northwest Service Cooperative: <https://www.nw-service.k12.mn.us/>

Northern Lights Library Network: <https://nlln.org/>