

**Director's Report
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)
June 15, 2024**

Administration

Audit and FDIC

The audit was conducted by Carpenter, Evert, and Associates and is complete. NLLN is under budget by several hundred dollars this fiscal year.

Northern Lights Library Network's auditor, Marc Colin, from Carpenter, Evert and Associates, recommended placing funds over \$250,000 into another bank to ensure FDIC coverage. Amounts over \$250,000 in NLLN's reserves are moving to a Money Market at U.S. Bank. So far, over \$100,000 from reserves at Bremer have been moved to US Bank and more will be moved as CDs at Bremer become due. Current banking takes place at Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes, where NLLN has developed a longstanding working relationship. Work with Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes will continue for funds \$250,000 and below.

Bylaws

NLLN's Bylaws will be updated this fiscal year.

Strategic Plan

NLLN's new strategic plan will be designed and implemented this coming fiscal year. A qualitative and quantitative approach will be utilized, beginning with interviews of stakeholders, a qualitative analysis of those interviews, and a survey designed, based on the interviews.

Governance

This is currently the governance structure of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) as put forth in Statute 134.351:

Subd. 4.Governance.

- (a) In any area where the boundaries of a proposed multicounty, multitype library system coincide with the boundaries of the regional library system or district, the regional library system or district board shall be designated as the governing board for the multicounty, multitype library system. In any area where a proposed multicounty, multitype library system encompasses more than one regional library system or district, the governing board of the multicounty, multitype library system shall consist of nine members appointed by the cooperating regional library system or district boards from their own membership in proportion to the population served by each cooperating regional library system or district. In each multicounty, multitype library system there shall be established an advisory committee consisting

of two representatives of public libraries, two representatives of school media services, one representative of special libraries, one representative of public supported academic libraries, and one representative of private academic libraries. The advisory committee shall recommend needed policy to the system governing board.

Professional Development

Native American Literature: American Indian History and Culture For Both Students and Teachers

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) sponsored a collaboration between Dr. Caitlin Johnson from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) to produce a free self-paced course to assist Minnesota educators and students in learning about Native American literature texts, including texts recommended by Indigenous teachers and organizations. See:

<https://nwsc-learning.teachable.com/p/native-american-literature>

The CEU certificate at the end of the course is 1.5 clock hours. The course was designed to meet the upcoming “Minnesota teacher licensure renewal area of American Indian History and Culture: The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers renewing their license under sections 122A.181 to 122A.184 to include in the renewal requirements professional development in the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on Minnesota Tribal Nations. (*MN Law, chapter 55, article 5, section 42, subd. 7*)” (<https://nwsc-learning.teachable.com/p/native-american-literature>).

Access to the course was distributed to all multicounty, multitype library (MCMT) systems across the state. In this way, our goal of reaching every librarian is met. This is by far the most participation of any course offered by Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC). The MCMTs were brought together with Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC). NLLN Executive Director, Kathy Enger, currently teaches one course in MSUM’s Department of Leadership & Learning, where Dr. J. teaches full-time.

As of May 10th, 869 students were enrolled.

Destiny Workshops

More Destiny online catalog training needs to take place and will continue in the new fiscal year. Destiny is sponsored by Follett and the online catalog for schools in the NLLN region and across the state through the NorthStar Library Consortium. The NorthStar Library Consortium is sponsored by NLLN and Region 1.

20th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference
August 14 and 15, Pre-conference August 13
July 29 registration deadline

White Earth Early Childhood Development will again be hosting an in-person conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen August 13 – 15. Many of the presentations are of interest to educators and librarians, including outdoor learning, mental health, classroom management, language and culture, trauma, conflict resolution, family engagement, and self-care by *Healing Bridge*. The conference is culturally relevant. NLLN is sponsoring Dr. J. from MSUM, who will be a keynote and presenting material from her dissertation, *Jumping through Sacred Hoops: Multi-Ethnic Indigenous Identity and Approaches in Health and Wellness Education*, “As a result of historical trauma, it is paramount for Indigenous communities to take control of their health and wellness today in order to maintain the survival of Indigenous people” (<https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/handle/10365/32713>).

See:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/20th-annual-communities-collaborative-brain-development-conference-tickets-856314127607>

“Better Together” June 10, 2024

NLLN sponsored “Better Together” at Lakes Country Service Cooperative again this year. “Better Together” is designed to bring together librarians and educators from across the region to share ideas and support each other in their work. 34 people attended. The Legacy Program from Viking Library System set-up posters from the Alan Page collection depicting the African American experience in the U.S.

“Better Together” Agenda:

“BETTER TOGETHER”

June 10, 2024

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

1001 East Mount Faith Avenue

Fergus Falls, Minnesota. 56537

No cost to attend

6 CEUs

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. Coffee, tea, and caramel rolls.

9 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. *Conversation and discussion among colleagues* with Lynette Schwagerl and Glenn Heinecke.

10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. *Discussion about collection management policies* with Gina Drellack, Northwest Service Cooperative.

11 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Conversation with Mark Mindt, creator of Native American *superhero KODA Two Hearts* and author of young adult books about KODA.

12 noon – 12:50 p.m. Lunch (no charge).

1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. Presentation and conversation with Nick Lero, PBS, about *LearningMedia and Indigenous resources*.

2 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Presentation and discussion with Louie Lauer about *new children’s books*.

3 p.m. Break out sessions on *Makerspaces* with Emily Thomas, Technology Integration Analyst & Trainer | Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916

(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V-0YrQ5PxtUKTieZVX5tHqn8Y8_7sJ6i?usp=sharing);

American Library in Paris Fellowship from Arielle McCune, Fergus Falls Public Library

Storytelling from Glenn Heinecke, Roseau Community School

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM)

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) training is open and ongoing. For individualized or group training, contact Beth Staats at: fried004@umn.edu. eLibraryMN celebrates its 8th year this year. eLibraryMN is “information resources for all Minnesota researchers, residents, students, and lifelong learners” <https://elibrarymn.org/>. All Minnesotans can use ELM for no charge. Resources include eBooks, Job & Career Skill Building, Health, Medicine, and Nursing databases, Britannica, PebbleGo, Explora Kids, and many more. Many of the resources include audio assistance.

College & Research Libraries

Executive Director, Kathy Enger, continues to review articles for *College & Research Libraries*.

Mailing to School Library Staff

NLLN sent a mailing to 200 school library staff in the region through the U.S. Postal Service. The packet included information on the June 10th “Better Together” workshop; a poster about the Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference at Shoot Star Casino in Mahanomen from August 13 – 15; Learning Media Resources and Indigenous Resources from PBS; a model library collection management policy from the Minnesota School Board Association; a scholarship application from Northern Lights Library Network for library workers who are eligible for up to \$500/yr. in professional development funds.

School Library Census

The school library census survey is nearly completed. Julie Reimer is the K-12 School Library Census Project Manager, working as the liaison between the multicounty, multitype directors, the Advisory Group, and Counting Opinions. Julie is a former elementary school librarian, an avid reader, and somebody who values curiosity, connection, and kindness. She previously worked with Verena Getahun on the MDE School Library Status. Counting Opinions is creating the survey. The intent of the survey is to understand which schools in Minnesota have libraries and who is managing them, generally. The effort is overseen by an advisory group. The multicounty, multitype library systems have been tasked with this effort and was allocated funds to accomplish it. The second phase of the project is to provide resources to schools to increase the number of licensed media specialists in Minnesota's schools.

Scholarships

Scholarship continue to be granted for professional development across the region, including the following: Fall Conference; a Scholarly Writing Grad. Class; Librarian visiting Paris; the PLA Conference; Native American literature course creation; Archive training for a paraprofessionals.

School Library Media Programs in Minnesota

NLLN sponsored three presentations from the higher education programs in the state that offer library training. There are currently three school library media programs in Minnesota leading to school library media licensure:

University of Minnesota Mankato: Belle Nelson, Coordinator, laura.nelson.2@mnsu.edu;
<https://grad.mnsu.edu/all-graduate-programs/school-library-information-studies/>

St. Cloud State University: Jennifer Hill, Coordinator, jchill@stcloudstate.edu; <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/im-library/default.aspx>

Saint Catherine's University: Lacey Rotier, Coordinator; lrotier504@stkate.edu;
<https://www.stkate.edu/academics/academic-programs/gc-school-library-media-specialist>

The following were offered via Zoom:

**SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA
LICENSURE PROGRAMS IN MN**

You're Invited

Please join us on May 2nd at 3 p.m. to learn about the library media program at St. Cloud State University

Kathy Enger is inviting you to;
St. Cloud State Library Media Program with Dr. Jenny Hill

Time: May 2, 2024 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/97063134222>

Please join us on May 15th at 3:30 p.m. to learn about the library media program at MSU Mankato

Kathy Enger is inviting you to;
Library Media Program Presentation at MSU Mankato from Belle Nelson

Time: May 15, 2024 03:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/92553565986>

Please join us on May 24th in learning about the library program at St. Catherine University

Kathy Enger is inviting you to;
MLIS Program with the University of St. Catherine

Time: May 24, 2024 03:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/99859504640>

Legislation

Public School Libraries and Media Centers Minnesota Statute 124D.901

The Minnesota Legislature passed legislation and funding to school districts the 2023 legislative session to increase service in school libraries. The statute states the following:

A school district or charter school library or school library media center provides equitable and free access to students, teachers, and administrators. A school library or school library media center must have the following characteristics:

- (1) ensures every student has equitable access to resources and is able to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged;
- (2) has a collection development plan that includes but is not limited to materials selection and deselection, a challenged materials procedure, and an intellectual and academic freedom statement;
- (3) is housed in a central location that provides and environment for expanded learning and supports a variety of student interests;
- (4) has technology and Internet access; and

(5) is served by a licensed school library media specialist or licensed school librarian.

Senate File 3471

This session, Senate File 3471 was introduced to establish a state school librarian, amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 134.31, by adding a subdivision stating generally that the “Department of Education must employ a state school librarian within the State Library Services Division of the department to provide technical assistance to licensed school library media specialists and licensed school librarians. The state school librarian must be or have been a licensed school library media specialist. The state school librarian must collaborate with department staff in the areas of academic standards development, data collection from district and charter schools administering state library aide, and monitoring district compliance ...: see:

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3471&version=0&session=ls93&session_year=2024&session_number=0&fbclid=IwAR0qWFwyaHH-8UY3_gjHfZ15ey3L-Qq1vESAnzI9j7CiJ3VHvpIuYqBTIXA

Thank you to Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative for speaking on behalf of libraries in the NLLN region and state at the Senate Education Finance Committee meeting on February 29 in support of the bill. Her testimony is here:

<https://mnsenate.granicus.com/player/clip/12160>

Senate File 3474

Committee on Education Policy meeting on March 6 heard testimony to create a Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety Council. Amendment a.1 was also introduced to increase the council from 19 members to 21 by adding two academic librarians to the council. Both the bill and amendment introduced by Senator Kunesch passed. Sheri Levasseur testified on behalf of the bill and libraries in the NLLN region and state. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5QmIsscbfA>

All of the measures above passed this legislative session

134.351

The multicounty, multitype systems (MCMT) are seeking an addition to the statute that governs the MCMTs. A majority vote among the directors moved to bring the following change forward as an MLA legislative priority. I was the only MCMT to vote “no” to the changes, with the concern that the option of removing public library representation on MCMT boards would negatively impact the composition of the NLLN Governing Board in the long run and erode the effectiveness of the multicounty, multitype library systems. The section most concerning would allow public library systems to be removed from governance on multicounty, multitype boards:

“(d) Upon recommendation of its advisory committee, governing board, and the boards of any regional public library systems involved under (a) or (b) above in governance may choose to

reconstitute the governance of the multicounty multitype library system to be an independent board by severing the appointment responsibility of regional public library system boards.

Planning is underway to reintroduce this change again next legislative session.

Collection Support

Hoopla Support for Wheaton Public Library and Browns Valley Public Library

NLLN supported Hoopla for the Wheaton Public Library during 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2021, usage for Hoopla at Wheaton Public Library was 377, by 2023, usage went up to 729. NLLN began supporting Hoopla for the Browns Valley Public Library for the first time this year.

eBook and eAudio Book Support for KRLS and NWRL

Kitchigami Regional Library System has received a check from NLLN to support their eAudio book initiative and funds will be going to Northwest Regional Library System (NWRL), as well.

Bookmobile Service to Campbell School

A check was hand-delivered to the Viking Library System (VLS) to support ongoing bookmobile service to Campbell School, with the remaining funds to support interlibrary loan.

Broadsides

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) commissioned 35 numbered and signed copies of broadsides by distinguished regional poets designed and printed on a printer at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) by Patrick Vincent, a former professor at MSUM. After an introduction to broadsides by Dr. Thom Tamaro, three of the poets read at the West Fargo Public Library on April 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., including Kevin Zepper, Travis Dolence, and Ken Bennet. Poems from broadsides of three other poets were also read: Denise Lajomoidiere, Lina Belar, Mark Vinz. Copies of the broadsides were donated to the West Fargo Public Library. A goal of Northern Lights Library Network is to discover resources within the region and to share them universally.

MSUM English Collection

NLLN has a large collection of vinyl records from the English Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) — from Shakespeare plays to readings of Robert Frost. The library where they were housed in Weld Hall is under renovation and the collection was given to Northern Lights Library Network to distribute for free to libraries in our region. The collection went to a local Moorhead business, after seeking a library home for over two years.

Funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is one of seven Minnesota multicounty, multitype library cooperative systems. NLLN is comprised 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), and includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomon, 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 on four campuses, including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, all located across the region in Moorhead, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Wadena, and Fergus Falls; numerous private colleges; three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; the Maamigin Achigaazo Community Library at White Earth; one hundred-eighty-five school libraries in seventy-nine school districts, including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools; 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 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 the supporting structures 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 to 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.



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.

