

# Strategic Plan Work Plan Report of Results Fiscal Year 2020

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## Northern Lights Library Network

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, North-west, and West-central Minnesota. NLLN strengthens libraries and collections in the region by discovering, enhancing, and sharing resources through administrative, technological, and educational support.

Northern Lights Library Network is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

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”.

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 five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- Share Resources Among all Participating Libraries
- Provide Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs
- Develop a Delivery System for Services and Programs
- Development of a Bibliographic Database
- Maintain a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions:

- Develop library staff professionally
- Improve local library collections
- Sponsor and support funding for libraries
- Champion for libraries
- Create, develop, and maintain library programs that enrich the lives of Minnesotans
- Move the discipline of Library and Information Science forward through research, presentations, and publications

- Lead and administer our own nonprofit agencies.

The seven systems are governed by regional boards.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (the State of Minnesota covers a total of 86,939 miles) that includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahanomen, 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; 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, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to determine 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.

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.

In compliance with Minnesota Administrative Rules 3530.2400 Subpart 2. Plan., applicants for operating grants, “shall provide to the Division of State Library Services by the application date a five-year plan which addresses the provisions of the five qualifying services required in Minnesota Statutes 1979 Supplement, section 134.351, subdivision 3”, which states, “In order for a multi-county, multi-type library system to qualify for planning, development, or operating aid . . . each participating library in the system shall adopt an organizational agreement providing for the following:

- (a) Sharing of resources among all participating libraries;
- (b) Long-range planning for cooperative programs;
- (c) The development of a delivery system for services and programs;
- (d) The development of a bibliographic database; and
- (e) A communications system among all cooperating libraries.”

The Long-range Strategic Plan for Northern Lights Library Network includes a vision statement, mission statement, identification of core values, and goals and objectives. A basic logic model is used, which is a picture of how each program works and the measures required to insure they work, including Inputs and Activities (state aid expenditures and objective narratives), Outputs, and Impact.

**Vision Statement:** Libraries are attractive, welcoming places that are friendly, open, inclusive, accessible, innovative, and a source of community pride where people can go to learn what they need to know in order to thrive and grow in their communities. When libraries work together, communities grow stronger, and the lives of Minnesotans are enriched.

**Mission Statement:** Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative system of two-hundred-and-eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-central, North-west, and West-central Minnesota. NLLN strengthens libraries and collections in the region by discovering, enhancing, and sharing resources through administrative, technological, and educational support.

***The main purpose of Northern Lights Library Network is to make all libraries in the region stronger.***

**Core Values:** 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.

Libraries are inclusive environments that are accessible to all persons.

All who use our libraries and collections feel welcome.

Libraries and collections are well organized and easy to use.

Library user needs and interests are determined and once they are determined, we assist library users in learning how to use library resources to meet their needs and interests.

Libraries are bridges between physical and electronic access to information, bridges between people and technology, and bridges between the resources available and the community using those resources.

The purpose and benefits of libraries are communicated to citizens in the region.

The inherent value of books is understood.

On-going, sustainable, and continuous library funding at the local, state, and national levels is defended and supported.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to determine the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine what supporting structures are required for local library systems, taking into account the unique needs of different types of libraries.

NLLN reduces duplication of services by enhancing coordination among libraries. As resources are shared, services are expanded, and efficiency is improved as libraries can offer services or programs they may not otherwise be able to afford. All of the work performed by Northern

Lights Library Network effects the direct service of its members, and has an exponential effect on its client base.

The following goals and objectives are accomplished to utilize state resources efficiently and execute library programs effectively.

### **Goal I: Share Resources Among All Participating Libraries**

#### **IA. Objective: Deliver library materials to patrons in a timely manner.**

**Inputs and Activities:** Interlibrary loan support for Viking Library System (VLS) and bookmobile service to Campbell, Minnesota.

**Output:** Northern Lights Library Network support interlibrary loan service in the Viking Library System and Viking Library System bookmobile service to Campbell, which resides in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System. Campbell would not receive bookmobile service, otherwise.

**Impact:** Timely access to library materials in the NLLN region results in improved literacy rates and a better quality of life for citizens in the region.

#### **IB. Objective: Exchange resources among libraries.**

**Inputs and Activities:** NLLN 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.

### **Goal II: Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs**

#### **IIA. Objective: Facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing among libraries throughout the NLLN region and the State of Minnesota.**

**Inputs and Activities:** Travel to libraries and meet with librarians throughout the NLLN region and Minnesota to attend local, regional, and statewide meetings and conferences and serve on committees.

**Output:** Meetings, conferences, and committees attended by the NLLN Executive Director.

July 13: Alexandria, Meeting with NLLN's President, Glenn Heinecke.

July 17: Alexandria, Brief meeting with board member, Dawn Dailey, and delivered documents to Bremer Bank.

July 18: Moorhead, phone call with Molly Huber, Minnesota Digital Library and Lina Belar, Wadena County Historical Society, to discuss placing the Wadena County Historical documents online.

July 18: Fergus Falls, Jon Solinger exhibit and presentation at the Ottertail County Historical Society Museum, attended with Lynette Schwagerl.

July 26: White Earth, delivered book donation from the Wanda Gag award MSUM to the Little Free Libraries at Ogema, White Earth, Pine Point, and Rice Lake with Kayla Gordon.

August 12: White Earth, Circle of Life Academy, consulted on reopening the library with Sharon Stalboerger and Chris McArthur.

August 13: Moorhead, yearly audit field work with Marc Colin, Carpenter, Evert, and Associates.

August 20: Moorhead, lunch with Carol Sibley.

August 20: Moorhead, dinner with Al and Cathy Davis. Cathy donated six boxes of children's books for the Circle of Life Academy and the Little Free Libraries at White Earth.

August 26: Moorhead, online meeting with the multi-type directors to discuss joint strategic plan.

September 9: Moorhead, meeting with Gina Drellack to discuss the *Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project* and possible collaboration for presenting writing workshops with Gina and the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project in the region.

September 9: Moorhead, meeting with editors of New Rivers Press, Travis Dolence and Nathan Runquist, to discuss disbursement of one hundred titles of *You May Have the Suitcase Now* by Beudelaine Pierre, to libraries throughout the region with funding from Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC). NLLN wrote a letter of support to LRAC.

September 10: Moorhead, Zanzbro Ken Bennett poetry reading.

September 12: Fargo, Fargo Public Library, Denise Lajimodiere reading her book, *Stringing Rosaries*, about American Indian boarding schools.

September 13: Moorhead, met with Dawn Barrara at St. Joseph's School to donate some titles from the Cathy Davis donation.

September 18: Prior Lake, multi-type director's meeting and MLA annual meeting.

September 23: White Earth and Itasca, brought Cathy Davis books to Circle of Life Academy and met with Adell Bridgeford at Itasca to discuss her upcoming donation.

September 24: Moorhead, Hannah Buckland from MDE, State Library Services visit.

September 26: Moorhead, lunch meeting with Maureen Jonason, Director of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, to discuss dispersing *Prairie Daughters* through libraries in the region. The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County is requesting funds from the Lake Region Arts Council to purchase one hundred copies of the title to send to libraries in the region. NLLN wrote a letter of support.

October 2: White Earth, cataloging and arranging books at *Circle of Life Academy* to reopen the school library.

October 5: Staples, Destiny training at Sourcewell.

October 8: Bemidji, Lakeland Public Television interview on *Currents*, a public affairs program with host, Carl Sewall, "The Role of Libraries in the Current Media and Social Environment". The panel included Executive Director, Kathy Enger, and Bemidji State University Library Assistant Professor, Patrick Leepore.

October 19: Moorhead, NLLN Governing Board meeting.

**Impact:** Strong support of libraries throughout the region and the State of Minnesota maintains and builds a strong library infrastructure in the state, communicates the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens of the region, and possibly results in continued funding.

**IIB. Objective:** Provide civic support for citizen engagement activities in member libraries to activate the constituent base and increase library support. As valued and trusted civic

**resources, libraries are in key positions to empower citizens to become actively engaged in the democratic process. Community engagement programming leads to optimism, individual well-being, and overall civic health. Libraries bring people together in nonpartisan ways and provide them with un-biased facts in impartial environments. As publicly supported entities, libraries are uniquely positioned to address the information needs of the people they serve through the use of physical space, technology, books, and skilled staff.**

**Inputs and Activities:**

**Library Luncheon with Legislators**

Conversations with legislators, such as NLLN’s “Library Luncheon with Legislators”, forms positive relationships between legislators and librarians, ensuring ongoing library support for constituents in our region. Librarians in our region actively seek ongoing support for libraries in order to improve service delivery and continue to serve citizens in the state of Minnesota adequately.

**Output:** Opportunities for citizen support of libraries and active engagement in the political process.

**Legislative Directory.**

**Impact:** An informed, voting citizenry.

**IIC. Objective: Develop activities that bring all libraries together.**

**Inputs and Activities:**

**The Life Achievement Award** from Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) signifies a contribution to the NLLN region from a citizen who has given extraordinary service to libraries throughout a career. The award is given once a year upon the recommendation of the executive director or a governing board member.

**John Wallace Ingersoll and Joan Ballard Larson Foundation Fund**

The John Wallace Ingersoll Foundation Fund was established December, 2016, in memory of NLLN President Wayne Ingersoll’s brother, John Wallace Ingersoll, and former NLLN Director, Joan Ballard Larson in order to honor current and past NLLN Governing Board members and to honor current and past NLLN members. Funds are used to support the programming of Northern Lights Library Network.

**Output:** Support of existing libraries, librarians, and programs in the region.

**Impact:** The ability of libraries of all types in the region to communicate freely with each other and collaborate on projects that enhance the services of libraries in the region strengthens rural libraries and communities.

**IID. Objective: Join together Historical and Cultural Organizations and Museums in the region in order to strengthen and preserve their collections, support professionals managing their collections, and make the collections more easily accessible to citizens of the region. Develop strong ties with the Minnesota Historical Society in order to consistently disseminate information throughout the region. Create a system in Minnesota for the Historical and Cultural Organizations and Museums that is similar to the Regional Public Library System in Minnesota.**

**Inputs and Activities:** Historical and Cultural Organizations and Museums with collections in the region become members of NLLN. Maintain the Directory of Cultural and Historical Organizations and Museums in the region, available in paper and on the NLLN website.

**Output:** Activities that encourage the growth and support of Historical and Cultural Organizations and Museums ensures ongoing financial and structural stability.

**Impact:** Citizens throughout the region and beyond will increase their understanding of Minnesota rural history through access to and awareness of rural, historical, cultural, and museum collections.

**III. Objective: Conduct research.**

**Inputs and Activities:** Conduct qualitative or quantitative research on topics related to library-related needs in the Northern Lights Library Network region.

**Output:** Presentation of research at conferences and in publications.

**Impact:** With a foundation of research, librarians can show the value of their work.

**IIIF. Objective: Advocate for libraries.**

**Inputs and Activities:** Attendance at library legislative meetings and testimony before the Minnesota Legislature in support of libraries.

**Output:** The number and types of advocacy activities.

**Impact:** Great libraries create community optimism, individual well-being, and overall civic health. People who read experience a fine quality of life.

**IIG. Objective: Bring resources from the state and national levels to the local level and discover resources within the region to share them universally.**

**Inputs and Activities: Share resources at the local, state, and national levels.**

**Output:** Number of items or programs shared throughout the region.

**Minnesota State University Moorhead donated government maps to libraries in the region.**

Mary Anderson Cicurlation Concordia College Library	IA1.17:28/1 I53.11:N81d D5.355:1150/996/SH.1-6	Amtrak's National Rail Passenger S 1988 ND Resources Management P The World Ed. 3-DMA
Dawn Barrera St. Joseph School	20, 22, 26, 27, 41, 47, 61	
Erin Gnderson Branch Manager Breckenridge Public Library	Glacier National Park National Parks in the Midwest National Park System Map & Guide Land Status State of Montana 1984 National Resource Lands in Montana State Idaho Map Amtrak's National Rail Passsenger.. State of Colorado Map Facilities at JFK Space Center, NASA.. #12 #13 #20 #61 #187	
Laurie Jo Villwock Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School	I19.111/A:38077-AS-NA-07M-00 I19.111/A:38077-BD-NA-07M- 00/990 I19.111/A:998/L23 I20.47:In2/3 I20.47:In2/4 I20.47:In2/973 I20.47:L23/2000	Indian Tribes, Cultures, and Lan National Atlas. Average Annual Reservoirs Federal and Indian Lands Indian Land Areas, Industrial. Indian Land Areas, General. U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Indian Indian Lands in the United State
Maxine Lammers Media Specialist Breckenridge Elementary	HE20.9419:N22 I19.111/A:38077-AS-NA-07M-00	Large Navejo Nation U.S.A. Indian Tribes, Cultures, and Lan
Paula DeMars Director of Library Services Leech Lake Tribal College	Any maps related to Indigenous America pre-colonial and post-colonial	

**Dr. Shari Scapple recently donated books** to go to libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region. Dr. Scapple retired from the English Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) this spring. The books will be distributed at the June 11, 2020, “Better Together” workshop.

**Adell Bridgefjord and Chris Chastak** received funding from Sourcewell to bring books, newspapers, and magazines into three Walker High School English classes and provide training for students and staff on the use of eLibrary Minnesota. NLLN worked with Adell to write the Sourcewell grant and sponsored training at Minitex in June. The project is moving forward and eLibrary Minnesota training will take place sometime this school year.

### **Minnesota Multi-county, Multi-type System Joint Strategic Plan. Strategic Plan Overview**

- Analysis of the alignment of the current legislation and funding of the MCMT in relation to the current mission, resources, and goals.
- Findings from analysis of models and best practices for similar agencies.
- Member survey results and findings, especially identifying potential strategic directions, priorities, goals, and unmet needs.
- Focus group/interview findings.
- One-page Graphical Plan with Vision, Mission, Strategic Directions, Goals.
- For communication about strategic direction. Use in meetings, on website, and in publications. Use in Board reports as reminder of high-level strategy. Use in staff areas as reminder of high-level strategy. Use with members in publications and at meetings as a reminder of high-level strategy.
- Strategic Plan Document is the expanded, more traditional text-heavy strategic planning document for Board approval. It provides additional context and detail about the planning process and other plan components. Use on your website as the “full plan” for members/stakeholders to review. Staff should have access to this document so they can understand their role in implementation.
- Implementation Elements: Activity Plan, Evaluation Framework, and Reporting Template. The activity plan is an internal document for staff/Board to use when planning annual activities that will help meet the plan goals, timeline, and staff responsibilities for the activity. The activity plan can also be used for internal updates/reports to streamline strategic plan management. The activity plan changes and is updated annually by staff. The evaluation framework breaks down which metrics will show progress for each goal. The reporting template allows for a standardized way to show plan implementation progress and success. Staff use the activity plan to detail annual activities and accomplishments. The activity plan can also be used to set individual performance goals. The activity plan can be used to develop progress reporting using template.
- Evaluation framework, aligned with goals, helps stakeholders understand metrics that show strategic plan success.
- The reporting template standardizes strategic plan reporting.

**Feedback from the survey that was sent to NLLN by Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell School.** Specific feedback linking responses to multi-type agencies will not be included in the MCMT Strategic Planning reports.

“NLLN has significantly *affected* me, my school, my students, and my region. I firmly believe that because of NLLN, I am a beer educator, my students have beer access to libraries, and the librarians and libraries in our region are stronger and continuing to improve. NLLN has consistently provided me with scholarships to continue my library education and networking; this would not be possible without their support. NLLN directly provided training, resources, guidance, and *staff* support when our library went through a transition on to an online catalog; this would have been *difficult* and nearly impossible without their direct support, guidance, and involvement. Through my networking with NLLN, I’ve been able to work with other leaders to invent, plan, and lead an annual regional workshop for school and public librarians; our libraries and librarians are improving because of this workshop, and it could not happen without the support and guidance of NLLN. The Viking Library System Bookmobile now visits our school on a regular basis because our small town does not have a public library. NLLN helps to make those visits possible so that our students have regular access to a public library. I cannot stress enough the importance of having these regional multi-type systems. NLLN gives me professional support in the form of an excellent mentor, financial support, and regional resources and library networking opportunities that are near my home and school in greater Minnesota. Part of its strength is the fact that it is located in our region of greater Minnesota and focuses on networking and resources both here and throughout the state. Librarians in my rural region are connecting with each other, learning together, and building stronger libraries because of NLLN and its supportive director. NLLN has greatly impacted the librarians and libraries in our region, and I hope that regional support can continue in the future.

I believe that part of the strength of the multi-type system is that each multi-type can directly connect with librarians in that region and address the particular library needs of each region. I know that this has *affected* libraries in the NLLN region, and I hope that many librarians in other regions are having similar experiences with their mul-types. Each mul-type is important in its own way, and I greatly value that work. Overall, this regional connection and support makes all Minnesota libraries beer and strengthens all of our library systems.

In my opinion, my MCMT’s greatest accomplishment in the past 5 years is working with a small group of library leaders in the region to invent, plan, support, and lead the regional Better Together workshop for public and school librarians in our region.

Communication among the multi-types is important. Making sure every librarian has a voice and feels connected with other librarians and the regional multi-type is very important. I feel that my voice is being heard at my multi-type. I hope that every librarian’s voice is being heard regionally and statewide and that our multi-type leaders regularly communicate with the librarians in their region. I think that library advocacy could be greatly improved if we all work together. MCMT leaders need to include the voices of librarians throughout the state and make an *effort* to reach out to hear those voices – both electronically and in person. We could have a strong library advocacy *effort* if we approached it in a grassroots way, making sure that advocacy and legislative proposals are coming directly from the librarians themselves, rather than from a few select leaders. Transparency and inclusion of every voice is very important, and I feel that the MCMT could be part of that process.

Regional programs and opportunities throughout Minnesota are very important. I cannot overstate this: people in greater Minnesota want to be included and valued, and direct regional outreach and programs are very important.

Thank you for using this survey to listen to the voices of librarians throughout the state. I hope that the responses are thoughtfully considered and used to shape upcoming *efforts*. I am very thankful for all of the support and guidance of NLLN and its director, and I hope to feel continued support from NLLN in the future. Thanks to the multi-types for their work and support. You make a *difference*.” Lynette Schwagerl, Campell School, response to MCMT Strategic Planning Survey

9/27/2019 ipHouse Webmail :: Edited Survey Responses

[https://webmail.iphouse.com/?\\_task=mail&\\_safe=0&\\_uid=104868&\\_mbox=INBOX&\\_action=print&\\_extwin=1](https://webmail.iphouse.com/?_task=mail&_safe=0&_uid=104868&_mbox=INBOX&_action=print&_extwin=1) 2/2

**Impact:** Libraries in the region receive resources they need.

### **Goal III: Development of a Delivery System for Services and Programs**

**IIIA. Objective: Support literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region in North-central, North-west, and West-central Minnesota through the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*. 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.**

**IIIB. Objective *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*: Career development, professional engagement, scholarships, and library service funding** for staff and library board member participation in continuing education programs, events, and participation at national and international conferences for library professionals in the region who may not be able to attend without the support of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). Continuing education scholarships are awarded as incentive for individual growth and development in order to enhance library services throughout the NLLN region. Scholarships are available to all employees of NLLN member libraries. Scholarships may be used for the following purposes: Registration or tuition; Lodging; Meals; Transportation (mileage is for the use of a personal vehicle – only one person in a vehicle may request mileage); Parking; Required books or educational materials; Cost of a substitute to cover while applicant is at an event (applicant must have paid the cost of a substitute before requesting reimbursement). Reports summarizing the benefits of receiving the scholarships are required upon completion of continuing education opportunity.

**Output:** Funds for scholarships have gone primarily to attendance at the Minnesota Library Association conference and are nearly expended for the year.

**Impact:** Library staff attendance at local, regional, national, and international conferences generates new ideas and best library practices among colleagues and library constituents.

**IIIC.:Objective for the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*: Ongoing library administrative and technical support for the Maamagin Achigaazo Community Library at White Earth and the**

White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program (WECC/ECP) and support for the Tribal College Libraries.

**Output:** Number of activities and types of programs supported.

**The Circle of Life Academy is reopening its school library.** Chris McArthur and Executive Director Kathy Enger are consulting and helping to reopen it with access to the Destiny catalog through Region 1, collection management, and circulation assistance (barcoding, call numbers, etc.).

**Retired Moorhead kindergarten teacher, Cathy Davis, donated five boxes of books** for Circle of Life Academy and Little Free Libraries throughout White Earth.

**MSUM Curriculum Library Director, Pam Werre, donated seventy-five books** from the Wanda Gag awards for the Little Free Libraries at White Earth that were delivered to Little Free Libraries at Ogema, White Earth, Rice Lake, and Pine Point by Kayla Gordon and Kathy Enger.

**Impact:** A community library at White Earth and support of the Tribal College Libraries provides access to literacy-rich materials for people in the region, including books and access to electronic resources, along with increased use of information sources throughout Ojibwe communities prepares children to begin school and provides people of all ages with access to reading material. As a result, literacy rates will improve.

**IIID. Objective for the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*: Training and onsite assistance for librarians in the region** to assist them in keeping up with changes in the library environment using practical adult learning principles linked to skill-building, whereby:

- Learning is self-directed
- Learning fills an immediate need and is highly participatory
- Learning will be helpful and applicable in the work setting
- Learning is experiential whereby participants and trainers learn from one another
- Training encompasses time for reflection and feedback
- A mutually respectful environment is created between trainers and learners.

**Output:** The learning opportunities provided.

**Mini – “Better Together” Workshop**  
**Destiny Training**  
**Sourcewell**  
**202 12<sup>th</sup> Street NE**  
**P.O. Box 219**  
**Staples, Minnesota 56479**  
**9 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**There is no charge for this workshop**  
**The workshop includes four continuing education credits**

**Send Kathy Enger an email to register, at:**  
**Kathy.Enger@nlln.org**

*The “Better Together” workshops bring together the many valuable resources in our region and state, including the knowledgeable, friendly, and dedicated people working in our schools and*

*libraries. The workshop gives participants the opportunity to get to know each other, learn from one another, and build a lasting network of colleagues.*

**9 a.m. – 10 a.m.**

**“The Nuts and Bolts of Destiny”**

**Glenn Heinecke, Roseau School District 682**

- **Login to Destiny**

Levels of Access: Administrator, Technology Staff, Librarian, Students  
Check in Back Office and change your access

- **Website**

Adding links/websites to your page  
Creating groups of categories  
Go to the bottom of the page and add

- **Dashboard**

Library overdues  
Library circulation for the year  
Library holds  
Library circulation by day  
Library circulations by month

- **Catalog**

Searching by:  
Title  
Author  
Subject  
Series  
Keyword

- **Catalog**

Destiny Quest  
Destiny Discover – eBooks  
Adding titles  
Titlewave

- **Circulation**

Checking out books  
Checking in books  
Renewal  
Holds

- **Library Reports**

Check outs  
Call number reports  
Digital labels-spine, barcode, reading program  
Collection Stats. Summary  
Library Statistics

**10 a.m. – 12 noon**

**“Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to know about Destiny”  
Sheri Levasseur, Pequot Lakes School District 186**

- **Follett Resource Manager for Inventory and Check-outs**
- **Follett Shelf for eBooks, Placing Holds, and Creating Lists**
- **Follett’s LibGuides**
- **Ordering Books through Titlewave and Migrating them to the Catalog**

**... and more**

This Mini – “Better Together” workshop is sponsored by Northern Lights Library Network, Pequot Lakes School District 186, Roseau School District 682, and the John Wallace Ingersoll and Joan Ballard Larson Foundation Fund.

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**One-on-One visits to schools in the region.** Glenn Heinecke visited Norman County West to consult on a variety of questions and ideas. Ceata Cook, Media Specialist at Norman County West said:

*“What a great service Glenn was when he came to Norman County West as he solved problems and answered lots of questions for me in June.”*

**Full-Day Diversity and Inclusion Workshop for Library Personnel in the Region.** NLLN is sponsoring a workshop in collaboration with the Tri-College libraries (MSUM, Concordia, NDSU) for all library personnel in the region tentatively scheduled for April 1. The keynote and facilitator will be Anne Phibbs, From *Strategic Diversity Initiatives*, “Exceptional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services that Meet You Where You’re At: We Create Equitable and Inclusive Spaces, Workplaces, and Organizations, Where Every Person is Understood, Valued, and Given the Opportunity to Thrive.” <https://strategicidi.com/>

**Indigenous Representations: A Literature Workshop.** Hannah Buckland from State Library Services is interested in providing the workshop *Indigenous Representations: A Literature Workshop -- Resources Aligned to Birth – Grade 12 Education Standards* for librarians and educators in the region. She will participate with 90 minutes at the June 11, 2020, “Better

Together” workshop, and is presenting the full-day workshop at St. Catherine University in St. Paul on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

“This workshop for educators (such as teachers and librarians) focuses on how to select, critically analyze, and incorporate Indigenous youth literature. With an emphasis on Indigenous-authored (#OwnVoices) texts, this workshop will encourage participants to explore books aligned with specific Minnesota English Language Arts Standards and develop strategies for incorporating titles in curricula, programming, and other activities. Participants will also have opportunities to practice hands-on book evaluation and to purchase titles included in the recommended lists. The day’s activities include lectures, readings, and interactive workshops by Dr. Dawn Quigley (Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe; *Apple in the Middle*) and Dr. Debbie Reese (Nambe Pueblo; founder of the *American Indians in Children’s Literature* blog and co-adaptor of *An Indigenous People’s History of the United States Adapted for Young Readers*).” <https://news.minitex.umn.edu/news/library-news/indigenous-representations-literature-workshop>

**YALSA Transforming Teen Services: A Train-the-Trainer Approach.** Leah Larson from State Library Services is interested in providing YALSA training for librarians and educators in the region. Jayne Rivard from Blackduck Schools is interested in hosting the training.

“YALSA in partnership with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) is implementing "Transforming Teen Services: a Train the Trainer Approach" from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. This effort brings together state library agency (SLA) youth consultants and front-line library staff for a robust training program. In the first year of the project a pilot cohort made up of SLA and front-line staff from AL, ME, MN, RI and WI received training and began facilitating learning for library staff in their states. In year two, 109 more SLA and front-line staff will be trained and they will then train others in their states.

This project is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Read the grant proposal (.pdf) and the initial IMLS press release.

State Library Agency staff play a critical leadership role in the development and delivery of library-related continuing education (CE) to front line library staff. By implementing a training program for and with youth services representative from each of the 50 SLAs as well as front-line library staff, YALSA and COSLA will achieve the next step toward developing a coordinated, efficient, and effective process for transforming teen services throughout the U.S., so that teen programs and services enhance civic and cultural engagement, facilitate lifelong learning, promote digital inclusion, and support economic vitality.” <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/train-trainer-project>

**Impact:** People in the NLLN region will know how to access the information they need to improve their lives.

### **III E. Objective for the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*: Increase access to books and information for citizens in the NLLN region:**

NLLN is sponsoring the purchase of books for a book club at the Thief River Falls jail.

## **Thief River Falls Library Book Club**

### **Sarah Villanueva**

#### **Abstract**

There is a group in the community that very often gets forgotten or, even worse, deliberately ignored. In times past inmates in a jail or prison were looked on as deserving of their punishment and therefore it was perfectly fine to throw these people in a cell and never think about them again until they wanted a job or to move into their neighborhood. This proposal's intent is to prove how useful and beneficial it is to have a prison book club on both the inmates and the community as a whole.

#### **Organizational Profile**

Each of these books will be read over the course of several weeks, the inmates will be given a copy and assigned a certain number of chapters to read on their own between meetings. As most jails must screen all incoming material the inmates are only allowed the book and the librarian may bring in printed questions the day of the book club meeting. Before a new book is given to the inmates it must first be given to the guards for inspection. The meeting will be one hour long and will involve some lecture by the presenter on any relevance in the reading and then open up to questions and opinions by the readers.

The audience will be between five and ten inmates at local jail within the town of the participating library. Within the classroom space is limited and the class cannot exceed over ten inmates at a time. Every county jail has strict behavioral policies which state that inmates must remain on task and not use this club as a personal venting session. The presenter has the right to ask any inmate to leave and it is up to the presenter's discretion if they allow the prisoner back into the class. The officers have reported that the prisoners' are eager to stay in the class so they are usually on their best behavior. There is so little for them to do that they do not wish to ruin their chance at changing up their routine.

This project proposes to use the public library as the natural host for creating prison book clubs. The public library is the perfect place to start because: librarians are nonjudgmental, public libraries concentrate on different outreach programs, most librarians are familiar with running a book club, and public libraries are central parts of their community. Librarians have to be nonjudgmental for their job, the public library welcomes all and librarians have to cultivate that welcome inside themselves. This makes them perfect candidates for creating a prison book club. Libraries also serve their community by creating outreach programs. Each program is to educate the public in a variety of ways; literacy, cultural diversity, community involvement, and education. A prison book club fits in perfectly with this outreach ideal, it will educate inmates in cultural diversity as well as allow them to build literacy skills that most don't have. Public librarians are also perfect to be involved in this program as they most likely have run a book club in their own library.

#### **Schedule of completion**

This project is scheduled for a year, with each book taking about seven weeks to complete. Some books, like *The Outsiders* and *Macbeth*, will take less time because they are shorter in length. Throughout the program each participating librarian will measure inmate

success and interaction within the book club by using a behavioral rubric and consulting with local psychologists. With better personal understanding the prisoners should have a better chance at proper reintegration with the public at large and less of a chance of a repeat offence.

Book	Number of Copies	Cost	Total
To Kill a Mockingbird	10	\$7.19	\$71.90
Macbeth	10	\$4.99	\$49.90
The Outsiders	10	\$7.99	\$79.90
Between Shades of Gray	10	\$9.19	\$91.90
Purple Hibiscus	10	\$9.98	\$99.80
Turtles all the Way Down	10	\$11.99	\$119.90
Educated	10	\$15.37	\$153.70
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$667.00</b>

### Book Justification

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, **Themes:** racism, intolerance, social justice, doing the right thing, and coming of age.

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, **Themes:** fate, free will, murder, peer pressure, love, and legacy.

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, **Themes:** coming of age, violence, gangs, family, murder, classicism.

*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys, **Themes:** love, hate, survival, family, identity, dignity, and coming of age.

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, **Themes:** coming of age, abuse, religion (Catholic), love, identity, and mental illness.

*Turtles all the Way Down* by John Green, **Themes:** mental illness, perception of reality, obsessions, coming of age, love, and relationships.

*Educated* by Tara Westover, **Themes:** mental illness, coming of age, family, duty, education, sense of self

### NLLN is sponsoring a subscription to Hoopla Digital at the Wheaton Public Library.

Hoopla gives access to digital media such as movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows.

**Retired Moorhead Kindergarten Teacher Cathy Davis** donated approximately a total of 350 children's books to the White Earth "Little Free Libraries", Circle of Life Academy, the White Earth Book Drive, and St. Josephs School Moorhead.

**eBook access** for middle and high school students throughout the NLLN region.

Many students living within the counties served by **Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL)** and **Northwest Regional Library (NWRL)** have been issued iPads or tablets by their schools. LARL and NWRL have seen a steady increase in the use of eBook and eAudiobook collections. Teachers and media specialists from across the region have contacted LARL and NWRL, asking how their students can obtain access to eBooks and eAudiobooks. LARL and NWRL are encouraging schools, teachers, and students to register for LARL and NWRL library cards to access the eBook services provided to them through their public library. Along with Overdrive, the *Tumblebook Library* is provided for the Northwest Regional Library System. eBook and eAudiobook access for students enhance efforts schools make to provide content rich materials to students.

**eAudio book access for citizens in the Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS).**

As eAudio technology has increased, Kitchimigami Regional Library System has seen a dramatic increase in the use of eAudio books by young adults, adults, and seniors, yet, there is frustration among constituents because there are limited eAudio materials available in the KRLS region. The demand for eAudio books is outstripping Kitchi's ability to provide them. The youth audience in particular has expanded for these items while the older adult audience is growing at a faster rate than anticipated. While students throughout the Kitchigami region have ready access to eBooks, access to eAudio books is limited. KRLS would like to encourage teachers and students to register for KRLS borrower cards and use the eAudio services provided to them through their public library. Rather than schools spending additional funding to purchase their own eAudio book collections and duplicating efforts across the region, KRLS can be the eAudio book access point for the students. Since adults and seniors also have limited access to affordable eAudio books, KRLS can significantly improve their access by the purchase of simultaneous multi-user eAudio titles. With funding from NLLN, KRLS can increase significantly its holdings of juvenile and YA eAudio titles and explore multiple simultaneous user licenses for some titles meant for an older audience.

### **Clay County Historical Society *Prairie Daughters* Project**

September 27, 2019

This is a letter of support for the *Prairie Daughters* Clay County Historical Society application for funding from the Lake Region Arts Council to distribute one hundred copies of *Prairie Daughters* to libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region, which includes some of the same counties served by Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC): Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin counties. While NLLN serves a total of twenty-three counties, Northern Lights Library will distribute copies of *Prairie Daughters* to school, academic, special, and public libraries in the nine counties served by Lake Region Arts Council, effectively giving libraries and citizens in our region access to this important title.

I believe this is an important title to make available to libraries and citizens in our shared region for several reasons. First, it has material from regional artists who are often underrepresented in the visual arts. Annie Stein and Orabel Thortvedt lived in rural Clay County, Minnesota, and much of their art represents this region. Secondly, these two artists are female artists from eras when females were not widely recognized for their art. Finally, their work can be appreciated for historical and cultural reasons

by students and researchers who study material from this place and that time. While we have books representing art in this place historically, I can't remember a title that represent female artists. The uniqueness of *Prairie Daughters* is captivating and requires distribution. Otherwise, many people will never know about it or have access to it.

While access to the title at public libraries is generally understood, bringing *Prairie Daughters* to academic and school libraries in the region would be especially useful to students studying local history. There are few titles of this caliber for students preparing for History Day, for instance. In addition, NLLN hosts a database of over seventy-one Historical and Cultural Organizations and Museums, who would welcome a copy of *Prairie Daughters*.

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative system of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries covering a geographic region of 26,950 square miles in Minnesota, including the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

Northern Lights Library Network is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

Thank you for your thoughtful and supportive work in the region. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Brock Enger  
Executive Director

### **New Rivers Press and Lake Region Arts Council Initiative**

September 9, 2019

This letter is written in support of New Rivers Press (NRP) and the application for funding from the Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC) to bring the upcoming publication, "You May Have the Suitcase Now" to libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network region. Collaborative work, such the one proposed between New Rivers Press, the Lake Region Arts Council, and Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) creates and sustains a strong artistic literary network in the region. Together, we serve the same constituents, with a common purpose of growing and sustaining a literary and artistic public. Northern Lights Library Network supports literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in the NLLN region through NLLN's *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*: "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" (NLLN's Strategic Plan). The work of New Rivers Press and the Lake Region Arts Council support NLLN's *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*, especially in regard to bringing Beaudelaine Pierre's publication, "You May Have the Suitcase Now", to libraries in the NLLN region.

"You May Have the Suitcase Now" tells the story of new immigrants to Minnesota and the struggles they experience in finding a home and place, here. Through immigration, we all have the opportunity to experience new life and cultures, which are so beautifully and simply

portrayed in the book (I was lucky enough to see a review copy). From my conversations with Travis Dolence and Nathen Runquist, editors of New Rivers Press, I understand that an instructional guide will be written to accompany the book, which will be useful to librarians and educators in the region. Currently, schools in the state are working hard to meet cultural diversity curricular requirements, which the book and instructional guide would accommodate.

With the support of Lake Region Arts Council, we would like to bring one hundred copies of “You May Have the Suitcase Now” to libraries throughout the NLLN region. In addition, if LRAC supports the initiative, NLLN will investigate the possibility of bringing the author, Beaudelaine Pierre, to a workshop in the region, to talk to educators and librarians about her experience and book. This initiative is something Northern Lights Library Network can stand behind, since it fulfills the mission set forth in its strategic plan through the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*, as stated above.

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, that 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 is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

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; 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, and early childhood programs.

Thank you for your thoughtful and supportive work. As always, it is gratifying to work with you.

Sincerely,  
Kathy B. Enger  
Executive Director

**Output:** The number of books and electronic resources supplied to programs in the region with support of NLLN.

**Impact:** 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 to build behaviors that lead to satisfying lifestyles. Reading expands possibilities and promises experiences beyond the scope of every-day life.

**IIIF. Objective for the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*:** Send summaries of select books from the book reviewing journal, *Booklist*, to member libraries.

**Output:** Library employees can determine which books to purchase and make available to their patrons.

**Impact:** Improve library collections.

**IIIG. Objective for the *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*:** Encourage the love of reading, literature, and the spoken work by sponsoring literacy events throughout the region and state. 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.

NLLN sponsored *Moving Words* at libraries in the region. Moving Words is a program of The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library as the Library of Congress designated Minnesota Center for the Book; whereby, Minnesota Book Award authors travel and read to audiences throughout Minnesota.

**Monday, September 30, 6:30 pm**

**Godel Memorial Library**

314 E Johnson Ave, Warren

- Susan Bartlett Foote
- Michael Hall
- Ed Bok Lee
- Kao Kalia Yang

**Thursday, October 3, 7:00 pm**

**Morris Public Library**

102 East 6th St, Morris

- David LaRochelle
- Nicole Helget
- Wing Young Huie
- Sun Yung Shin

**Monday, October 7, 7:00 pm**

**Detroit Lakes Public Library**

1000 Washington Ave, Detroit Lakes

- Shannon Gibney
- David LaRochelle
- Margi Preus
- Mike Wohnoutka

**Monday, October 14, Noon**

**Brainerd Public Library**

416 S 5th St, Brainerd

- Ed Bok Lee
- Margi Preus

- Andrea Swensson
- Diane Wilson

**Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project training, Along with a Writing Workshop.**

Training provided by Gina Drellack, Education Services Coordinator, Northwest Service Cooperative in Thief River Falls. Gina holds a Certificate in Writing from Berkeley, a Masters in Educational Media Technology, and Certified in Life Coaching to teach and empower others. We are in the planning stages of bringing The Minnesota Library Publishing Project (MLPP), along with creative writing training, to people in the NLLN region.

“The Minnesota Library Publishing Project provides online publishing tools and training information to support independent authors and small publishers. We believe that libraries have a vibrant role to play in helping local communities come together to create and share books.

The MLPP is a pilot project coordinated by Minitex and Minnesota’s academic and public libraries. We are providing Pressbooks to Minnesota libraries to encourage conversation among libraries about and promote experimentation with open- and self- publishing. This is an experimental endeavor, and we welcome your feedback.

MLPP’s book design tool is Pressbooks: an easy-to-use online service that enables authors and publishers to create attractive content using a wide variety of templates and formatting options. Pressbooks allows ebooks to be kept private, shared with other authors or editors, or made publicly available. Templates are available that are specifically tailored for poetry, fiction, family history, dissertations, and many other content types.

Pressbooks assigns each uploaded manuscript a unique URL that authors and publishers can use to share their work. Pressbooks enables authors to export their works in formats that are essential to publishing including PDF, EPUB, MOBI, and HTML. Authors also have a variety of options to create print versions of their book(s). MLPP also offers training videos, best practices documents, and step-by-step instructions on how to get started with Pressbooks.

Public and academic libraries across the state are supporting MLPP by convening writing groups, supporting patrons as they work with the Pressbooks, and by providing an online collection of Minnesota independent author ebooks.” <https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/about-the-minnesota-library-publishing-project/>

**Goal IV: Development of a Bibliographic Database**

**IVA. Objective: Support the NorthStar Union Destiny Library Catalog.**

**Inputs and Activities:** 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.

**Output:** The number of transactions occurring through the NorthStar Library Consortium.

**Impact:** Improved access to library materials by students and teachers using the Destiny Catalog.

**IVB. Objective: Access to online bibliographic materials using the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Union Catalog.**

**Inputs and Activities: Support cataloging fees** for membership to the OCLC CatExpress group subscription for Northwest Regional Library, Lincoln High School Thief River Falls, Kittson School Media Center, Warren/Alvarado/Oslo High School, Breckenridge High School District, Clearbrook Gonvick High School, ADA-Borup Public School, Independent School District 435, Audubon High School Media Center, Perham/Dent Public School, Holy Rosary School, BUG-O-NA-GE Shig School, Grygla School Media Center, Bemidji Public School, Park Rapids High School, Northland Community Schools ISD #118, Circle of Life School, St. Joseph's School, Lancaster public School, Tri-County School, Mahnomen Public School, Frazee-Vergas School, Pine River Backus Public School, Badger School, Blackduck Public School, White Earth Tribal & Community College Library.

**Output:** Cataloging of 1,600 records.

**Impact:** Patron access to online cataloged materials.

**Goal V: Communications System among all Cooperating Libraries**

**VA. Objective:** Facilitate communication among all NLLN members.

**Inputs and Activities:** Develop and maintain membership lists and electronic methods of communication among NLLN members.

**Output:** email, Listbox, Facebook, and Twitter communication between and among members.

**Press Releases**

**Glenn Heinecke, Elected President of Northern Lights Library Network**

Glenn Heinecke was recently elected president of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). Glenn is a long-time resident of Alexandria and media specialist at Roseau Community School where he has worked for over a decade.

“Glenn’s contribution to Northern Lights Library Network is invaluable citizens in our region. He is responsible for bringing the Campbell School Library online, for planning NLLN’s yearly ‘Better Together’ workshops, and for consulting with school library specialists throughout the NLLN region. We welcome his tenure as president.”

Glenn participated in research at NLLN that determined the value of media specialists in school settings and their contribution to student success. The study shows that certified media specialists improve literacy at all levels and build 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, skills such as information literacy skills, digital literacy skills, and library and information science skills. If students know

how to successfully navigate the world of knowledge, they become active learners throughout their lifetime (see: nlln.org).

As president of Northern Lights Library Network, Glenn will be responsible for a library systems that serves school, academic, special, and public libraries in a geographic region that covers 26,950 square miles, including twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomen, 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; 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, and early childhood programs.

### **Kevin Baggett Elected Treasurer of Northern Lights Library Network *The Forum*, August 17, 2019**

Concordia College Business and Outreach Librarian, Kevin Baggett, was recently elected treasurer of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN).

Kevin Baggett has worked at Concordia College for five years. In that capacity, Baggett consults directly with business and social science faculty on information literacy initiatives, collection development and management, and provides in-depth research assistance. He frequently connects students to scholarly resources that assure their academic success and supervises access services for all. “Kevin’s strong knowledge of business research in the areas of finance and operations are critical factors for creating and sustaining a robust organization,” says Kathy Enger, NLLN’s Executive Director.

Baggett holds a Master’s in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mississippi. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years as an avionics sonar technician. Some of his publications include a recent article in *College & Research Libraries News*; numerous publications for the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction; a novella entitled, *The Apologies*; and an assortment of short stories.

He has three children with his wife Ashley, who is an historian at North Dakota State University.

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NLLN is funded by the Minnesota legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education, with offices at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM).

### **Dr. Shari Scapple Donates Books to Libraries in the Region**

Dr. Shari Scapple recently donated books to go to libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region. Dr. Scapple retired from the English Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) this spring.

Throughout her tenure at MSUM, Dr. Scapple taught a variety of courses, but children and young adult literature is her specialty. Her doctorate is in Children and Young Adult Literature and she's taught hundreds of students to appreciate the genre, many of whom went on to teach at schools in the region. "The best gift we can give children is the gift of reading", Scapple says. She served on the Article Award Committee of the Children's Literature Association, which selects the best yearly article on children's literature. Dr. Scapple is the founding editor of *Great Plains Reading Review*, an online reviewing journal for children and young adult literature. If you would like to read the reviews, see: <https://gpr.veebly.com/>. The donated titles are a result of Dr. Scapple's reviews.

Dr. Scapple's donation supports the mission of Northern Lights Library Network which is to increase access to reading materials in the region and to create an ongoing foundation for literacy. "We know that literacy promotes personal growth and enlightenment, ensures equity, upholds dignity, and creates prosperity", says NLLN Executive Director, Kathy Enger. "Dr. Scapple's donation is greatly appreciated."

Books from the donation will be given to librarians throughout the region at the next "Better Together" workshop where librarians from school, academic, public, and special libraries meet to discuss the needs of their reading public. At the last workshop, librarians from Breckenridge Elementary, Hawley Public Library, and Rothsay Public School were represented.

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### **Detroit Lakes Tribune Online, October 1, 2019**

#### **White Earth's Little Free Libraries get the books out**

On a recent warm day, Kayla Gordon was busy replenishing Little Free Libraries with books throughout White Earth.

“Most of the Little Free Libraries always have books in them, but some little libraries are used so much, they’re almost always empty,” she said.

The Little Free Libraries scattered throughout White Earth are located in Ogema, White Earth, Pine Point, and Rice Lake. This program began at White Earth when the community received a federal Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant for the little libraries and for one main community library, the Maamagin Achigaazo, which is in the center of White Earth.

As part of her duties managing the Maamagin Achigaazo community library, Kayla also visits the Little Free Libraries to make sure there are books in them. That’s a lot of books to look after. With a perpetual need for books, Pam Werre, Curriculum Materials Center Librarian at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), and chair of the Wanda Gag Read Aloud Book Award for children’s literature, donated some of the books received from the award to White Earth.

Werre collects children’s books throughout the academic year, and after reading them aloud in their classrooms, children in schools in the region decide on the best read-aloud picture book of the year.

Werre decided some of the extra books could be put to good use at White Earth and contacted Kathy Enger, Executive Director of Northern Lights Library Network, asking to her funnel them to White Earth. Enger contacted Gordon, and together they spent a day distributing the books to Little Free Libraries throughout White Earth.

## **Park Rapids Enterprise**

### **Little Free Libraries get the books out in White Earth**

**Written By: Enterprise staff | Sep 23rd 2019 - 12pm.**

**40**

Kathy Gordon, manager of the Maamagin Achigaazo community library, replenishes books at the Pine Point Little Free Library. Submitted photo

On a recent warm summer day, Kayla Gordon was busy replenishing Little Free Libraries with books throughout White Earth.

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The Little Free Libraries are located in Ogema, White Earth, Pine Point and Rice Lake.

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funnel them to White Earth. Enger contacted Gordon, and together they spent a day distributing the books to Little Free Libraries throughout White Earth.

“There are many excellent public libraries in the region supported by city, county, and state dollars, but the region is vast, mostly rural, and there are simply not enough books to go around,” says Enger, adding donations are always welcome.

NLLN covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles that includes the following 23 counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena and Wilkin. NLLN is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

**Interview with Lakeland Public Television, *Currents***, a public affairs program with host, Carl Sewall, “The Role of Libraries in the Current Media and Social Environment”. The panel included Executive Director, Kathy Enger, and Bemidji State University Library Assistant Professor, Patrick Leepport. The half-hour taping will be broadcast later in October.

A request for feedback to include in the program went to librarians in the region. I was able to read Sharon Gunkel’s on air, but not the others. Here are their responses:

BRITTNEY GOODMAN, Minnesota State University Moorhead

“You might want to mention that at the university level, many libraries are asked to touch on media bias and evaluation of media sources as part of our library instruction programs. I use a blank version of Vanessa Otero's "Media Bias Chart" with several workshops, especially in English and Communication Studies/Speech courses, to have students think about potential bias in their research resources.”

LAURIE VILLWOCK, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Bena

“The only thing I can think of is that it is getting harder and harder to convince students to listen to people read books aloud. I think so many parents either don't share books at all or use devices to do the reading for them. We have to put on a show in order to catch their attention.”

SANDY LARSON, Lowell Elementary Brainerd

“If appropriate, Please mention what is happening to my school (Lowell) in the brainerd district, closing the library- having classroom libraries instead, and the negatives about this. Our elementary media folks are surveying all 4th graders this fall on their technology use at home and digital citizenship. We will have discussions with classes based on the survey results. Super excited about that! Hopefully kids will realize that they're on devices waaay more than they realized.”

SHARON GUNKEL, Nevis Public School

“The two major points that I wish everyone understood about libraries today are....

1. While ebooks are wonderful and convenient, they do NOT replace print books. Research has shown that young children learn to read best when given print materials. Amazingly, many of my teen readers still say they prefer print to electronic books. Perhaps they spend enough time on devices and just want to settle in with a good print BOOK! Meanwhile, the body of evidence regarding the health effects of too much screen time keep growing....
2. Although the internet has put a world of information at students' fingertips, some of it is questionable content. In our modern world of misinformation, it is more important than ever

that students learn how to evaluate the information they find online. Effective librarians help them to do this.”

SHERI LEVASSEUR, Pequot Lakes Public School

“It's our role to provide access to all perspectives and opinions. Access to this is foundational to our intellectual freedom.

Libraries bring people together. They are as much for new parents and infants as for seasoned researchers.

We are not going away, we are evolving with the times. Books, media, professional clothing closets. Brainerd public library even checks out time with a happy light. :)”

**Impact:** Ongoing communication among members supports existing networks that communicate the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens in the region.

The Strategic Plan for Northern Lights Library Network for **Fiscal Years 2019 – 2023** circulated among members during the Spring of 2018, and the changes and suggestions from members was incorporated into the existing plan. Prior to the 2018 circulation, an electronic survey system was used to gather qualitative data from twenty-three representative NLLN members and a quantitative Lickert scale survey was designed, based on the qualitative material. Forty percent of members completed the survey. The survey was tested for reliability and found to be highly reliable.

From the survey results, the vision statement, a mission statement, identification of core values, and the development of goals and objectives of the organization were developed. To determine program development and implementation that arise from goals and objectives, a logic model was developed for each for planned work and intended results, including: activities, outputs, and impact.

With the scientifically valid strategic plan, the programs and services delineated in this strategic plan were designed and written. The 2018 membership review provides the groundwork for the 2018 – 2023 strategic plan. The programs and services outlined in the strategic plan were written over five years leading up to and including the 2018-2023 plan.