

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report December 16, 2006

Meetings/Activities

October

- 10/26 Visit to West Central Area Schools (Barrett) and Browns Valley School for North Star Library Consortium membership
- 10/27 Keeping up with the Storm – teleconference (video streaming – NLLN Office)
- 10/28 Meeting in Alexandria with First Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches regarding North Star Library Consortium membership
- 10/31 Rural Library Sustainability webinar – (web conferencing – NLLN Office)
- 10/31 Telephone interview regarding Mn Voluntary Certification program

November

- 11/6 Mn Book Awards Committee meeting, St Paul
- 11/6 Meeting with Mary Ann Van Cura regarding OPAL software, Roseville (MDE)
- 11/7 Work with Gretchen Wronka on Get Ready4K! Talking points
- 11/9 Meeting with Chris McArthur to plan Destiny training workshop
- 11/14 Meeting with Ann Treacy on Webpage design
- 11/14 Program and dinner with author Lise Lunge-Larsen
- 11/16 OPAL training workshop (web conferencing – NLLN Office)
- 11/17 Destiny training workshop for new staff members – Region 1, Moorhead
- 11/22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 12/1 MINITEX Policy Advisory Council, Andersen Library, U of M, Mpls
- 12/1 Meeting with Ann Treacy on webpage development, St Paul
- 12/5 Advocacy training workshop with Ready4K, Perham Early Childhood Initiative
- 12/12 Ready4K Board meeting, St Paul
- 12/14-15 Destiny End Training, Region 1, Moorhead
- 12/16 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes

North Star Library Consortium

- We had a good response to our “last call” for libraries to join the Consortium under the terms of the grant agreement. We have reached our 90 licenses.
- We conducted a one-day training for new staff in existing Destiny sites. This proved to be a valuable workshop that helped get new staff up to speed in using Destiny and CatExpress.
- Our final 2-day training for new sites was completed Dec 14-15 with representatives from 15 new sites joining the Consortium. These new sites include 2 churches from Alexandria. They will be our pilot “special” library sites.
- We continue to add new users for CatExpress which provides the Consortium with high-quality MARC records for the shared catalog. We now have about 70 users. Grant funds are covering this year’s cost of Consortium subscriptions.
- We are exploring ways to incorporate the ELM resources into the *Destiny* home pages for each site and are using the ELM portal template in several pilot sites.
- We will be doing a “Best Practices using Destiny” presentation at the MEMO Midwinter Conference.

Early Childhood Education and Libraries

- The “*Get Minnesota Ready for K!*” initiative is being put into its final format by R4K. This includes a “framework” which presents the issues, goals, actions, and expected outcomes. Also being finalized is the proposed legislation that will be presented in order to realize the goals of the initiative. Total cost of the proposed legislation is about \$400 million for the biennium; it includes bills that specifically mention libraries. The entire initiative is incorporated into the MLA Legislative platform.
- The “*Get Minnesota Ready for K!*” was recently reviewed at several early childhood meetings in the NLLN region by R4K staff. Strategies for support of this platform plank are being discussed in several venues.
- I have been working with a group from the children and young people’s section of MLA (MLA/CYP) to develop the library talking points in support of this initiative.
- I am a member of the MLA/CYP advisory committee to implement the work of CYP, particularly in regard to the “Ready4K at Your Minnesota Library” . This is a continuation of the LSTA grant that provided the Every Child Ready to Read @ Your MN Library”. Several important initiatives are being developed including a “Read across MN” that involves local legislators reading with children.
- The White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile held several “Open Door” events for the Readmobile, to acquaint people with the vehicle and the types of services that it provides to caregivers on the reservation.
- White Earth Child Care program continues to work on developing the program and building the services/partnerships provided by the Readmobile. It is slowly developing. There are continued training and set-up needs for the Readmobile staff; I have been actively involved in helping with this.

Continuing Education

- We continue to receive Continuing Education Scholarship applications for a variety of events including MEMO Midwinter, Spotlight on Books, and individual pursuits in the higher education world.
- Work on the Spotlight on Books Conference proceeds. We distributed 1000 “early bird postcards” at the MLA and MEMO Conferences, as well as by direct mail. Registrations are beginning to come in.

- The MEMO Midwinter Conference will be held in Alexandria at the end of January. NLLN will be presenting a ‘Best Practices using Destiny’ workshop at the Conference.
- NLLN is promoting attendance at this Conference and urging scholarship applications where needed. This is an important conference for the media specialists of our region.
- I have worked with Alice Hoftstad of the Northwest Service Coop, MINITEX, and Mary Ann Van Cura of State Library Services to present January workshops on the use of ELM, WebJunction, the Minnesota Digital Library, and MINITEX services. These will be held in Thief River Falls (2) and somewhere in the lower part of the NLLN region in mid-January.
- Teleconferences will continue to be available via satellite downlink at MSUM and via desktop video streaming. We have had good registrations for these events. Although we no longer receive copies of the VHS tapes, these tapes continue to be available for loan from MINITEX.
- I am participating in the Minnesota Book Awards committee that is organizing and presenting the 2007 MBA. The program is under the sponsorship of the St Paul Friends of the Library and the city of St Paul. I have been working to get good participation from libraries in greater Minnesota.

Communication

- The majority of my time has been spent on the navigation, content and look of the new NLLN webpage. It has been quite intense but I am pleased at how it is shaping up and look forward to receiving feedback from the Board and from our member libraries. It will go “live” perhaps this week at <http://nlln.org>; before that date it may be viewed at: <http://greatchurchesofrome.com> (a site where we are building it before going live).
- The Calendar of Events for the webpage has been a subject of much research to find an easy-to-use, easy-to-update application. Some alternatives are still under consideration.
- Also included on the new webpage is a new NLLN blog that allows comments from the public and is categorized by topic; a flickr photogallery (and a photo presentation in the works); a link to a del.icio.us account; and a number of other interesting elements that enhance the communication aspect of the NLLN website..
- I have been investigating the OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) conferencing software that is used for training, workshops, and small meetings. I believe that this inexpensive conferencing software for libraries may be of great benefit to NLLN. If interested, you can look at archived events at the OPAL website: <http://www.opal-online.org/>
- The Nov/Dec issue of the print NLLN Newsletter was distributed and posted as a PDF on the webpage; the 3 listservs continue to be busy and have recently been updated for subscription lists; other communication remains active as well.

Ruth Solie
Dec 16, 2006