



Minitex

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Manager Reports to the Policy Advisory Council
December 3, 2021

Director's Report

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Maggie Snow

Council of Academic Library Directors

Minitex convened the annual meeting of the Council of Academic Library Directors (CALD) in October. Along with Minitex and University of Minnesota Libraries updates, the agenda included CALD's Collection Management partnership, an introduction to the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, and a discussion on the future of controlled digital lending.

Cooperative Collection Management

Rhonda Huisman, SCSU, and Matt Rosendahl, UMD, provided an overview of CALD's shared print project and noted the Operations and Administrative Committees are drafting tiered pathways to participation for libraries to join in the project. Also noted Minnesota is a member of the national Partnership for Shared Print

Statewide Longitudinal Data System

Meredith Fergus, Minnesota Office of Higher Education, and Bianca Virnig, Metropolitan Educational Cooperative Service Unit, gave an overview and instruction for using the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLEDS), a system matching student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary education and into the workforce. SLEDS was created to assist in identifying the most viable pathways for individuals in achieving successful outcomes in education and work. They've made available a copy of their slides and also provided a number of handouts and cheat sheets for both the SLEDS and ECLEDS systems.

Controlled Digital Lending

Nancy Sims, Copyright Program Librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries, presented shared definitions of controlled digital lending as well as legal issues related to the practice.

Minitex 50th Anniversary

It has been a delight to celebrate 50 years of Minitex services over 2021. I've learned so much about the history of Minitex and have a deeper appreciation of the history of library development in Minnesota.

Cheers to the Minitex staff and volunteers who planned the year including Sara Ring, Dana Kocienda, Elizabeth Staats, Greta Bahnmann, Jordan Wagaman, Kay Kirscht, Elizabeth Loetscher, Zach Miller, Carol Nelson, Kathy Drozd, Bridget Reistad.

Highlights from the year include:

- Minitex then and now videos
- News articles showcasing some of the 12 libraries originating the Minitex experiment,
- Recreating the 1970s Minitex slide and cassette promotional program
- A history of Minitex to published via the Minnesota Library Publishing Project
- *Cheers to Fifty Years* virtual celebration with a welcome from Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Higher Education, and keynote by Barbara Fister.

The Minitex network is successful because of the infrastructure established by previous generations and continues successfully continues the work of library staff from across the region to collect, preserve, and make accessible the resources. Whether you live in Minneapolis or Twig, library resources enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

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RESOURCE SHARING, MNLINK & DELIVERY

Gerri Moeller

The beginning of FY 2021 has felt like a return to what the Resource Sharing and Delivery departments do best - provide information, resources and support to Minitex libraries.

We've been eager to know what the volume of requests would look like as students have returned to the classroom, and public libraries have expanded their open hours. Incoming requests through the summer remained steady, and there was a quick increase from the end of August to middle of September. Those numbers have remained remarkably consistent since then, with weekly numbers fluctuating very little from week to week. While it's not the steady increase we might have seen in previous years, it's also a far cry from the extreme swings of demand that we saw earlier in the calendar year.

We've taken a conservative approach, and hired some students to help out. They are doing a wonderful job, which has helped our full time staff take a breath, step back, and analyze what we need to best provide services through the coming months. We've also hired two new staff members, and they're both doing a wonderful job learning their new responsibilities.

A number of Minitex staff have joined Project ReShare committees. Project Reshare is an open source resource sharing platform that we hope will eventually be a viable option for libraries of all types. Two consortia, PALCI and ConnectNY went live on the project this summer, and have reported satisfaction with their new service.

Eighty-four libraries responded to a survey about the ILL Policy Database. Because of the age of the software, libraries have been unable to maintain their information in this database for some time, and even Minitex staff had lost their ability to update it. While not all libraries find all of the information useful, many libraries asked us to keep this service. Almost all of the respondents noted that they would keep their information up to date. The Minitex Resource Sharing and IT departments are currently working on the new version of the software, based on the recommendations in the survey. We expect to have the new database up and running by summer 2022.

Minitex Resource Sharing and IT staff are also continuing to work on the conversion of MNLINK statistics to Tableau. We'd planned to release the final version at the November MNLINK meeting, but the last look at the data showed that we were reporting on slightly different numbers in each version. We took a step back to find the discrepancy and see if we can recreate the previous version of the numbers in the new platform. We expect to finalize the stats at the next MNLINK meeting.

Minitex staff have made presentations to the Arrowhead Library System and the WMS Regional Users Group.

Minitex is working with the St.Thomas library on their Rapido implementation, and plans to work with other libraries who are interested in or testing Rapid. We have completed our work with the University of Minnesota Libraries on RapidILL lending, and are now lending scans of materials to University of Minnesota borrowing partners.

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REFERENCE OUTREACH & INSTRUCTION, COOPERATIVE PURCHASING, MLAC

Matt Lee

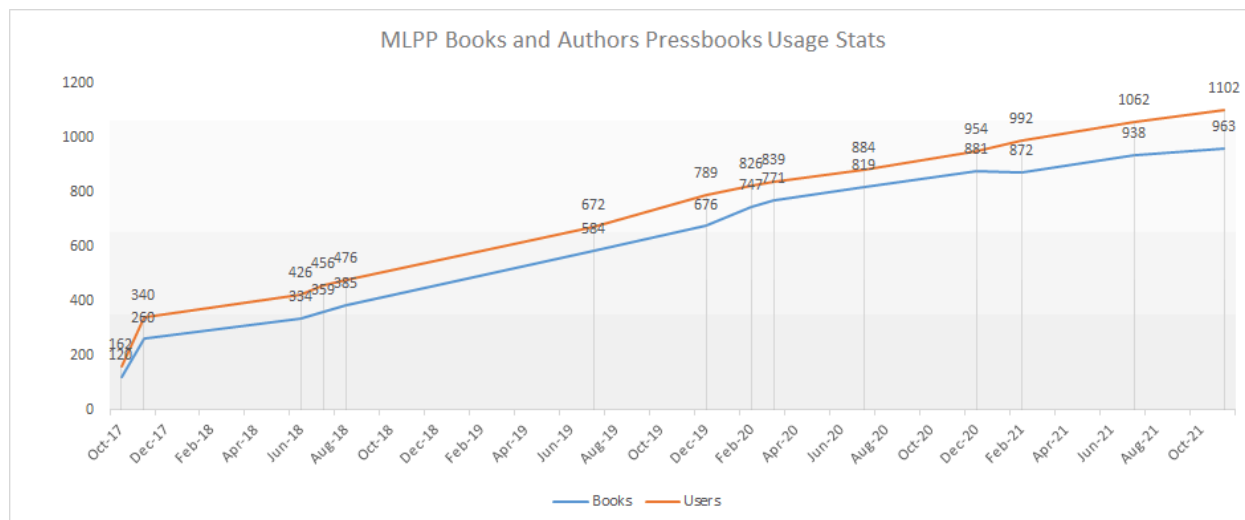
December 3, 2021

Ann Kaste joins CPERS

Ann Kaste has joined Minitex as an E-Resources Librarian. She comes to us from Minnetonka Public Schools, where she worked as the Information and Digital Services Coordinator, and also has experience at the University of Nebraska as a Digital Resources Librarian. She has an MLIS from St. Kate's. During her interview, she characterised negotiating with Elsevier as "fun," so she's uniquely well-suited for the job. Ann Kaste joins Anne Hatinen and Tim Peters in our Cooperative Purchasing and Electronic Resources Services (CPERS) unit.

MLPP nears 1000th book

As of November 19th, Minnesota authors have created 963 books using the Pressbooks Public authoring tool available via MN Libraries Publishing Project. Planning is underway for a celebration of our 1000th book.



MLAC Google project restarts

Following a pandemic-influenced pause, Google has restarted their digitization project. MLAC staff pull materials owned by the University of Minnesota Libraries to be digitized by Google for discovery in Google Books, and preservation and access for the campus community in HathiTrust.

History Day partnerships

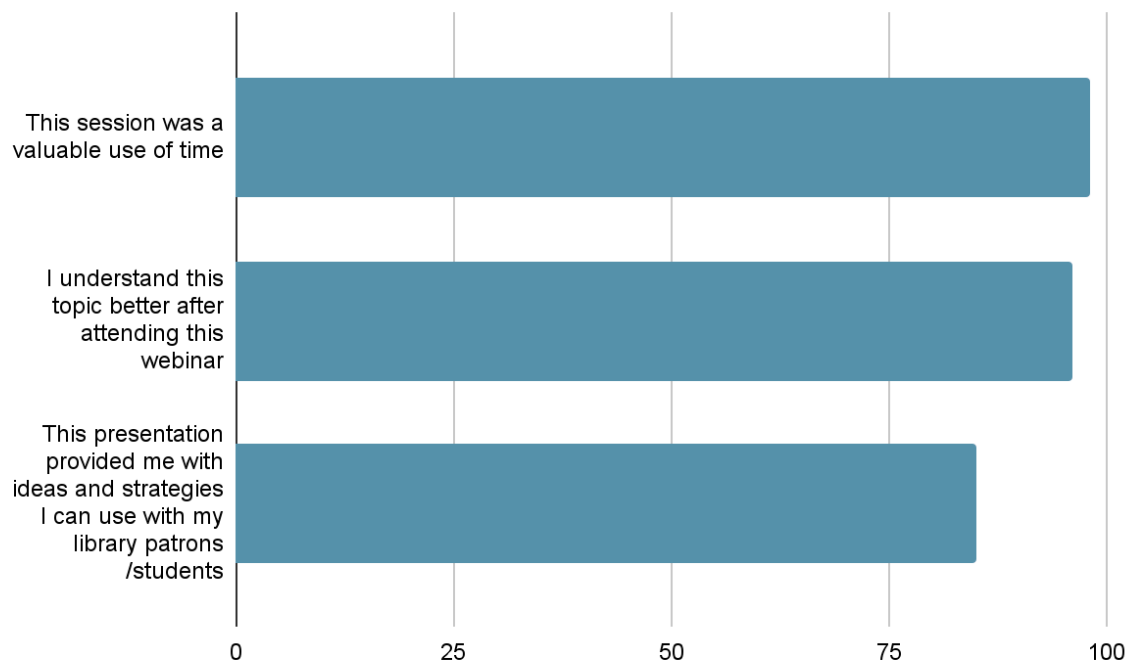
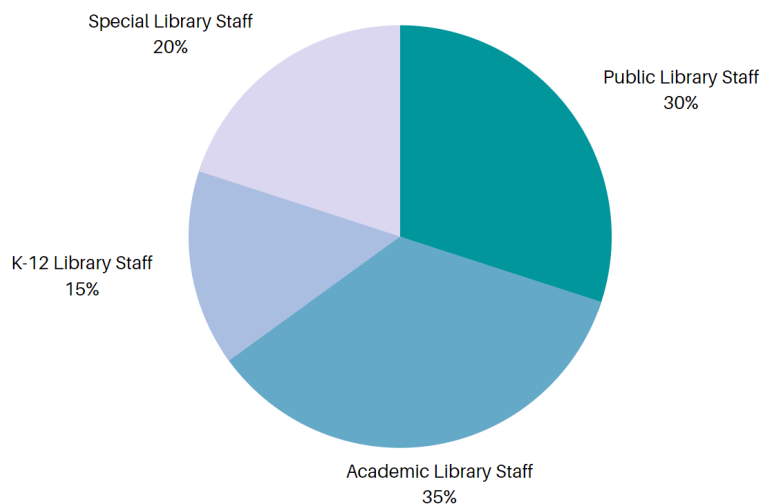
Reference Outreach & Instruction librarians are visiting History Day classrooms virtually this year to talk about the research process and ELM, and preparing some classes for field trips to the UMN Wilson Library. In addition, they are working with MELSA and St. Kate's to support MLIS students in staffing AskMN shifts for online History Day research events.

New Shop Minitex site

Visit shop.minitex.umn.edu to see our newly redesigned e-commerce site for purchasing library products like RFID tags, security strips, and more - at great prices.

Media Landscapes nearing transition point

The Media Landscapes campaign has presented nine webinar sessions since March of 2021 on various aspects of information and media literacy from both local and national experts: <https://levelupmn.org/media-landscapes/>. So far 889 people have registered for these sessions from all types of libraries, and evaluations indicate a positive impact on attendees' professional lives [see graphs below].



The next scheduled Media Landscapes session is “Combating Media Nihilism with Intergenerational Discussion” from Elissah Becknell and Rebecca March of Minneapolis College. We are considering what comes after the series ends in March of 2022. Many thanks to funding and planning partners in CRPLSA, PALS, and the Multitypes.

One Book One Minnesota, Chapter Six: The Song Poet

The Song Poet by Kao Kalia Yang is available now through December 19th at ebooksmn.org, with an author event scheduled for December 9th. Register for the author event at <https://sppl.org/onebook/>. The seventh “chapter” in the One Book series will be The Secret of Dreadwillow Carse, a middle-grade novel by Brian Farrey, which will be available March 28 - May 15, 2022.

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DIGITAL INITIATIVES & METADATA EDUCATION, MDL

Submitted Jolie Graybill

DIME/MDL staff and planning committees facilitated two well-attended virtual conferences this fall – the **MDL Enhancing DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) in Digital Collections Symposium** and the **Minitex Technical Services Symposium** – both featuring DEIA work and efforts.

The MDL Enhancing DEIA in Digital Collections Symposium (led by Molly Huber; 183 registered participants) featured keynote speaker Mark Puente, the Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Organizational Development, Diversity, and Inclusion at the [Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies](#) where he is currently leading the formation and implementation of an organization-wide development strategy designed through an equity lens at Purdue. The Keynote was followed by an impressive panel of speakers from a variety of organizations, including Melanie Adams, Director, [Anacostia Community Museum](#); Stephanie Johnson-Cunningham, Co-Founder, [Museum Hue](#); Dr. Adriene Lim, Dean of Libraries, [University of Maryland-College Park](#); Kristi Park, Executive Director, [Texas Digital Library](#); and Dr. Anne Phibbs, Founder and President of [Strategic Diversity Initiatives](#) addressing how their work intersects with and incorporates diversity and inclusion. The symposium concluded with an opportunity for all attendees to participate in breakout discussion rooms on DEIA topics of interest, facilitated by MDL staff and colleagues.

The Minitex Technical Services Symposium (led by Sara Ring and Lizzy Baus; 148 registered participants) featured the theme Good Trouble: Activism and Ethics in Technical Services and Keynotes Beth Shoemaker presenting “Scruples and Hoopla: Ethical principles into ethical actions, and Kendra Zellner-Smith presenting on “Save the Boards passion project” started after the murder of George Floyd and ensuing demonstrations. The 2 keynotes were followed by 3 breakout sessions and the opportunity to attend 3 different sessions, and recordings available later of all but 2 sessions, giving participants the opportunity to view all sessions:

- **Recognizing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Ethical Co-working in Technical Services**
Caterina Reed, Instructional Support Associate for Content Acquisitions and Services, Stony Brook University Libraries
- **Easy Ways to Decolonize the Catalog**
Bobby Bothmann, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- **You’ve Got Accessible Resources: Can Your Users Find Them?**
Violet Fox, Cataloging and Metadata Expert; David Norris, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, St. Catherine University
- **Using SNAC to Highlight Women's Voices in Archival Description**
Libby Hertenstein, Cataloger & Metadata Librarian, Bowling Green State University
- **From the Back Room to the Front Line: Integrating DEI Primary Sources for Discovery**
Faye Mazzia, Electronic Resources Cataloger Librarian and Ying Zhang, Associate Director of Collection Services & Resource Management, University of Central Florida Libraries
- **Demographics of Cataloging and the New White Man's Burden**
Preston Salisbury, Assistant Professor and Monographic Cataloger, Mississippi State University

Other DIME staff (Sara Ring) are working on upcoming presentations/education such as a **Linked Data in Libraries: The Big Picture and Applications in Libraries** for tri-colleges Concordia College, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, and North Dakota State University. The focus of this workshop is library linked data transformation and integration of the rich, authoritative data into the web, progress made, what to do with library data, and how linked data affects current practices and future user experiences. The two-part session

addresses the big picture while providing opportunities for participants to practice identifying and creating linked data.

The Minnesota Digital Library rolled out a new feature, MDL Exhibits, developed by Stephanie Hess. The exhibits explore wide-ranging topics in Minnesota history. Kicking off this new feature is "Farm to Table: Food History in Minnesota" which explores the history of food and how it has shaped the growth of Minnesota. It also examines related industries that developed around food harvesting, processing, and marketing, as well as how they have changed over time. In the coming weeks, more featured exhibits will be released, including a three-part series on Minnesota's immigrants. All will be available on the new [exhibit project page](#).

MDL Rights Training continued with Standardized Rights Statements Implementation Training mid-October. Overall, MDL has offered 11 training sessions with several multi-part sessions of training followed by work sessions. Notable stats include 98 out of 198 contributors have attended rights training sessions (49.5%) and 70 out of those 98 contributors have assigned rights statements to their collections (71%). Overall, 29,863 items (54%) in the Minnesota Digital Library have rights statements assigned for a statistic of:



RightsStatements_54% (1).mp4

MDL has been accepting new project applications since August and has 6 projects approved:

- Dakota County Historical Society
- Beltrami County Historical Society
- Lake City Historical Society
- Weavers' Guild of Minnesota
- Winona County Historical Society
- Minitex

Highlighting new projects include Pope County architectural drawings, Stillwater Public Library, Polk County Fair, items from the Fertile Public Library, another Probstfield diary installment from the archives at MSU-Moorhead, more MN Supreme Court justice oral histories from the State Law Library, the American Craft Council newsletter and magazine, Civil War era letters from Grant County HS, oral histories related to the clay industry in Red Wing from the Red Wing Pottery Museum, St. Paul City Council minutes from the St. Paul Public Library, photographs from the Reverend Parelus Rognlie papers at the Norwegian-American Historical Association, and finally, materials from Minitex's 50 year history.

Lastly, MDL did some advertising on TPT late summer/early fall with this [general awareness ad](#). The MDL website continues to show on average, a 30+ % increase. This trend appears to continue once the ad cycle is complete.

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