

**Selected Informational Items
Libraries and Service Delivery Consultant Group**

September 15, 2014 Meeting

Background

Explore e-Books MN

The Explore e-Books MN website includes five webinar recordings. The sessions offered by Jamie LaRue, Jo Budler and Sue Polanski may be of the most interest for information on how other states are approaching delivery of e-books. Of the two audio recordings from the Explore e-Books MN Summit held on August 12, Deb Hoadley's discussion of the Massachusetts project is of high interest. Results of the facilitated sessions are on the Summit Tab. The Resources tab includes links of interest to school, public and academic libraries.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five Year Plan

A [five-year strategic plan](#), approved by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), identifies Minnesota libraries' current needs and goals. All Minnesota LSTA funds, including all competitive grant projects, address one or more of the six goals in our five-year plan.

- Support literacy including, but not limited to, 21st-century and digital-literacy skills.
- Provide educational opportunities for children from early learning through postsecondary. Target children from birth through age 17 from families living in poverty or facing barriers including, but not limited to, language, race, ability, geography or access to technology or other resources.
- Promote lifelong learning and continuing education, including the enhancement and expansion of services and resources relating to health, access to justice, and workforce and community development, in order to cultivate an educated and informed citizenry.
- Promote training and professional development, including continuing education, to improve and expand the current and future library workforce to support end-user needs.
- Support technology and infrastructure initiatives and services that build the capacity of Minnesota's libraries to serve their patrons.
- Support statewide initiatives and services that build the capacity of Minnesota's libraries and their staff to serve their communities.

7-Point Plan for Excellence in Education

In February 2011, Governor Dayton launched a [7-Point Plan for Excellence in Education](#). These seven points lay the framework for a long-term vision for Pre K–12 education in Minnesota over the coming years.

- Funding for the future

- Better early childhood education
- Raise the bar—close the gap
- Reading well by 3rd grade
- Support teaching for better schools
- Better testing for better results
- A department that provides educational leadership and support

Broadband

Regional Library Telecom Aid

Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA) helps regional public library systems and their branch or member libraries provide broadband access to 342 public library buildings statewide. RLTA is funded through general fund appropriations (Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 134.355, Subd. 8-10). Funds are allocated based on actual cost pro-rated downwards to the amount of funding available. Eligibility requirements include application for e-rate and meeting M.S. 134.59 which requires that access to the internet be filtered. Average available bandwidth, statewide grew from 47.6mb to 56.6mb from 2012 – 2013. Bandwidth per public library ranges from 1.54mb to 1000mb.

Telecom Equity Aid

The Minnesota Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Aid program provides school districts and charter schools with financial assistance to help with the costs of maintaining Internet access, video connectivity and related telecommunications services as defined on the federal E-Rate Eligible Services List as recurring Priority I services for Internet access, video connectivity, and other related information transfer services.

[Broadband and Mobile Devices in Minnesota Education](#)

This summary report by Connect Minnesota indicates that 90% of households with school-age children say that they subscribe to home broadband service. Other data includes prevalence of one-to-one devices, adults using the internet to take classes online or conduct research for school.

[Broadband Speeds in Minnesota's School Districts - 2010](#)

[State of Rural Minnesota Overlaid Loosely on State of Minnesota Broadband 2014](#)

E-Government

MELSA Task Force

A MELSA Task Force is developing recommendations that will help its member library systems and community partners embrace their role as information intermediaries and connect the public to e-government resources through literacy services, access, resources and collaboration. Preliminary recommendations focus initially on three major areas: jurisdictional service delivery models, tax services and court e-filing. These include:

- Improve Public Access to E-government Services
- Provide Digital Resources for the Public and Library Staff
- Implement Library Staff Training
- Establish and Cultivate Community Partner Relationships
- Promote Critical Role of Public Libraries in E-government Access

- Raise Awareness of Role of Libraries in E-government

A national resource is the [Lib2Gov initiative](#) out of the University of Maryland.

E-Services

AskMN

AskMN is a live interactive chat service that allows patrons to converse with a librarian in real time. AskMN is funded by a legislative appropriation to Minitex. The service is available to residents of Minnesota, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The service is staffed by experienced library staff from Minnesota, QuestionPoint's 24/7 Reference National Cooperative (a group of hundreds of libraries across the country that work together to provide online reference service), and Minitex.

ELM

The Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) provides all Minnesotans with the best possible access to online information resources across the educational spectrum -- K-12, postsecondary, adult learning and self-directed -- and across locations -- local, state and federal government agencies and public libraries. ELM offers free and equitable online access to millions of magazine, journal, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles, eBooks and other information resources to state residents. ELM's reliable resources cover a wide array of topic areas -- arts and humanities, history, social sciences, consumer, health, business, science and more. They support the learning and information needs for all ages and all grade levels. ELM resources are available through 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the ELM Portal (www.elm4you.org) and the MnLINK Gateway (www.mnlinkgateway.org).

Evaluation and Assessment

The Edge Assessment

The Edge Initiative gives libraries tools to assess and develop the technology services they provide to the public. Edge helps libraries identify goals and strategies that align with the needs of the communities they serve. Nine Minnesota libraries have completed the assessment, another four are in process.

The benchmarks address training to increase digital literacy, digital content creation, partnerships within the community and availability of sufficient resources.

Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

The Northstar Digital Literacy Standards Project provides free assessments of basic computer and online tasks for adults. People who pass the assessments can earn a Northstar Digital Literacy Certificate, which can be a credential for employment. St. Paul Public Library is working with library partners across the state to address the needs of individuals with limited skills and education.

MEMO/ITEM Information and Technology Literacy Standards

The MEMO (now ITEM) Information and Technology Literacy Standards include a framework, standards and benchmarks for 21st Century skills. (Updated in 2009.)

Local Content Collections

[Minnesota Digital Library](#)

The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL)—professionals from libraries, archives, historical societies and museums across Minnesota—is creating a digital collection of the state's unique resources and special collections.

The Minnesota Digital Library supports education, scholarship and enrichment through Internet access to this collection. The MDL provides a server and database environment and imaging support that is the technical foundation for current and future digitization activities.

Minnesota Reflections is the initial digitization effort of the MDL. This digitization project, begun in 2004-05, now involves more than 160 participating historical societies, special archives, libraries and other organizations.

The MDL and participants have digitized more than 200,000 unique photographs and images, maps, journals, documents, letters and works of art, collected the information on these images, and created a searchable database to help people access and use them.

Minnesota Historical Society

MHS has a wealth of e-content available. These are just a few.

[Collections Online](#)

[Explore](#)

[Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub](#)

[MNopedia](#)

Online Learning

[Minnesota Learning Commons](#)

The Minnesota Learning Commons provides centralized access to effective and efficient online learning for Minnesotans. It is a web portal to online, education-related resources for targeted audiences and to educational opportunities, tools and services in public P-20 education.

[Minnesota OER Commons](#)

The website supports educators, curriculum experts, and administrators across K-12 and higher education in creating affordable high quality content solutions for learners using Open Education Resources.

[Open Education Resources Digital Curriculum Catalog](#)

Proposed

[Minnesota Electronic Health Library \(MeHL\) \(University of Minnesota Libraries\)](#)

What is the need?

Today's evidence-based, clinical care resources deliver up-to-date information in an easily accessible format. Such value added online resources are not freely available. Their high cost

means that the majority of our state's health care providers, educators, students and researchers, our librarians, and our state's 5 million citizens do not have access to the information they need to support their work and training, or to promote patient engagement and informed decision-making.

The Minnesota electronic Health Library will support:

- Equal and integrated access to evidence-based health information across the state
- Recruitment and retention of Minnesota's rural health providers
- Workforce development and lifelong learning
- Patient engagement and informed decision-making

This will result in:

- Improved health outcomes
- Reductions in health disparities
- Lower health care costs