



Update

March, 2005

- ❖ As of mid-March, 20 libraries in the NLLN region, mostly school library media centers, have begun using the Destiny library management system. Another 31 libraries are currently in some stage of migration to the **Destiny** software provided by the North Star Library Consortium. Current members of the consortium include:

Kittson Central Schools, Waubun-Ogema Public Schools, Northern Lights Library Network, St Joseph's School (Moorhead), Mahnomen Public Schools, Thief River Falls Public Schools, Pequot Lakes Public Schools, Goodridge Public School, Clearbrook-Gonvick Public Schools, Grygla Public Schools, Northland Community Schools, Lancaster Public School, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, Frazee-Vergas Public Schools, Fosston Public Schools, Lake Park-Audubon Public Schools, Fergus Falls Public Schools, Crookston Public Schools, Badger Public School, Tri-County Public Schools, Osakis Public School, Pine Point School, Park Rapids Public Schools, Browns Valley School, Norman County West Public Schools, Holy Rosary School (Detroit Lakes), and the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.
- ❖ Although the majority of these districts are very small, and all are in small rural communities, together their collections create an impressive union catalog. With the holdings of the first 8 school districts (representing 18 sites) loaded into the catalog, we have a total of 248,168 item records and over 13,000 patron records. Many thousands more will be added as we move to the full 90 sites included in the initial phase of this project.
- ❖ No individual school district in this consortium would be able to provide the hosting services for the **Destiny** software or the level of technical support that the consortium is receiving from Region I, Moorhead. A sophisticated library automation system is being made available to all school and special libraries in the region at an affordable price via a partnership between Northern Lights Library Network and Region I. It is web-based and thus available from any computer with Internet access. It doesn't matter if you wish to access the catalog from a Mac or a PC; whether you are in a media center, a classroom, a computer lab, or at home – the North Star Library Catalog is always available.
- ❖ Implementing the North Star Library Consortium (i.e., building a union catalog and providing a sophisticated library automation system in a cost effective manner) was given a huge boost by an Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant. This federal grant, awarded by the state of Minnesota to Region I/NLLN, is part of the No Child Left Behind program and will allow us to acquire 90 site licenses, as well as provide catalog cleanup, migration of data to Destiny, and the training and software support for consortium members in the first year. The purpose of the grant is to help schools use technology to enhance curriculum and support improved student achievement. The North Star Library Consortium does exactly this!
- ❖ Training in the use of the Follett **Destiny** system has been provided by Follett trainers, Northern Lights Library Network, and a newly-formed "North Star Library Consortium Users Group". In addition, the Enhancing Education Through Technology grant provides for a number of other types of staff development focused on technology and student achievement.

These have included the MEMO Midwinter Conference with Nance Nassar, the Spotlight on Books pre-Conference workshop with Sue Klund, the Nuts and Bolts of School Media Center Management workshop scheduled for April 29, and support of the MEMO Leadership Conference in July featuring Joyce Valenza.

- ❖ Where to see the catalog: <http://nlln.org/northstar> or go to <http://216.239.28.20> .
- ❖ Where to get more information about the project: <http://nlln.org/northstar> or call Ruth Solie, 800-450-1032 rsolie@nlln.org .
- ❖ Who is eligible to join the North Star Library Consortium: Any school or special library in the Region I or Northern Lights Library Network area. For detailed costs for your location contact Ruth Solie or Bob Wheeler (Region I).
- ❖ If my library joins the Consortium, do I have to migrate immediately? No, by returning a signed letter of understanding you are reserving one of the 90 site licenses made available by the grant. You will be contacted concerning the time frame for migration and it will be scheduled when it works best for you. That may be immediately, before the end of the school year, or perhaps not until summer – your choice. Migration and training are taking place on a nearly continuous schedule from now until December, 2005.
- ❖ What if my library is not currently automated? You are still eligible and the **Destiny** system will provide a means for converting your records to MARC21 format and you'll soon be fully functional as an automated library.
- ❖ Do I have to re-bar code my collection? No. Over time you will be asked to move to the 14-digit barcodes that meet Minnesota Standards for Library Automation Systems. This is a phased-in process that does not require you to do mass re-barcoding. You will simply begin using 14-digit barcodes and, while you convert over time, Destiny is able to read both your current barcodes and your new barcodes.
- ❖ What does this cost? The initial costs for licensing, migration, training, and support in year one are covered by the grant. Ongoing costs for support and for software hosting are determined by a formula based on the number of sites/number of students in the district. Bob Wheeler, Region I, can give you the detailed costs for your library or libraries. These costs are fixed for the first 3 years and are very affordable. Although they may be slightly higher than current software support, the Consortium costs include much more than software support. It's a bargain!
- ❖ Who do I contact for more information?

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