

Northern Lights Library Network

Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

2005-2007

A report for the Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

In the Spring of 2004, the Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board adopted a strategic plan for the years 2005-2007. This plan grew out of focus groups, board meetings, conversations, surveys, and member input that took place over the preceding year.

The Strategic Plan had four goals

- ◆ Facilitate educational opportunities in the NLLN region for NLLN member library staff, trustees, and Friends of the Library.
- ◆ Strengthen cooperation among all types of libraries in the NLLN region.
- ◆ Facilitate sharing ideas, materials, expertise, and experience within and beyond the NLLN community.
- ◆ Advocate on behalf of all libraries.

What did we do?

How did we do?

Where are we headed?

What follows is a brief summary of NLLN activities, programs, and services during these years. These can be used as a measure of our activity, of our success, and of our commitment to strengthen libraries in west central and northwest Minnesota.

*Ruth Solie
April 2007*

Facilitate educational opportunities ~ ~

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Program

- ☞ Since first beginning in 2004, NLLN has granted 137 Continuing Education Scholarships.
- ☞ Between 40 and 50 scholarships are awarded each year.
- ☞ Scholarships have been used by library staff to attend educational events that will help them in their library work.
- ☞ Reports from scholarship recipients are posted on the NLLN website. (<http://nlln.org/scholarship2007/index.html>). The Guidelines and Applications forms are also available online.
- ☞ Scholarships have been used for a wide variety of opportunities including national, regional, and local events.
- ☞ Scholarships have been awarded to staff at all levels of library work and from all types of libraries across the region.
- ☞ Scholarships supplement tight CE and travel budgets of member libraries, and allow workers to participate in educational opportunities they would not otherwise be able to experience.
- ☞ The Governing Board has allocated \$10,000 from special funds per year for these grants and has determined from reports and evaluations that scholarships have had a positive impact on the NLLN region.

Workshop, Conferences, Forums, Training Programs, and Other Events

NLLN is associated with 30-40 staff development events per year, attended by 400-500 people. NLLN sponsors, participates in, facilitates, and partners with others, to provide a wide range of workshops, conferences, forums and training events. Most notable of these are:

- ☞ For 19 highly successful years, NLLN has provided leadership and been the fiscal agent for the ***Spotlight on Books Conference***. This is an opportunity for the people in northern Minnesota to participate in a first-class children's literature conference, with national authors. It also allows for networking with colleagues, participation in practical workshops, and a chance to review children's literature in a beautiful setting.
- ☞ NLLN has sponsored, in partnership with the Tri-College Libraries, the teleconferences of the College of DuPage. These are offered as a satellite downlink site at MSU-M, as well as webcasts available for viewing from individual desktop computers. Funds from NLLN and/or MINITEX have made these possible.
- ☞ NLLN has provided more than 40 training days for participants in the North Star Library Consortium (NSLC) as well as support of NSLC members via webpage content, listservs, and special workshops.
- ☞ NLLN have provided 4 very popular "Nuts & Bolts of Library Management" workshops for school and special libraries; provided ELM workshops throughout the region, participated in Minnesota Digital Library presentations, and presented sessions at regional and state conferences.
- ☞ NLLN is currently introducing OPAL webconferencing software for use in our region to present workshops, conduct meetings, do planning, and house archived resources.



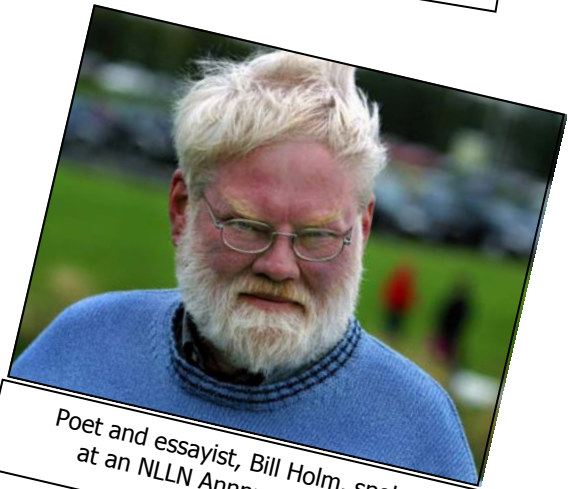
Friends and staff from Viking Library System attend Library Friends Workshop.



Carol Sibley and Derek Anderson at Spotlight on Books with summer reading program poster.



Carla Pfahl, Alice Hofstad, Charlie Lindberg at a Workshop day in Thief River Falls.



Poet and essayist, Bill Holm, spoke at an NLLN Annual Meeting.



Heidi Hoks and Patty Nunn listen raptly



Kate DiCamillo & Julie Sanders at Spotlight on Books.

Strengthen cooperation among all types of libraries ~ ~

NLLN encourages and facilitates cooperation among all types of libraries, organizations, agencies, governmental units, and professional organizations. Some examples of this include:

- ✎ The AIRS (Area Information and Resource Sharing) Project allowed school and special libraries to place interlibrary loan (ILL) requests through the ILL department at MSU-Moorhead.
- ✎ Delivery of the materials requested through AIRS was accomplished through a complex delivery system, funded in part, by NLLN. Other partners included regional public library systems, Tri-College Libraries, MINITEX, and regional service cooperatives.
- ✎ The AIRS project and the delivery system were phased out as MnLINK and the "Get It" button made it possible for school and special libraries to obtain materials on interlibrary loan by using public library cards.
- ✎ The White Earth Early Childhood Programs and the Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs are developing "Readmobile" services to provide early literacy training and books to the children, parents, and caregivers, on the White Earth and Leech Lake Reservations. Much collaboration between NLLN member libraries has been involved in planning and implementing these services; NLLN has coordinated cooperation, training, grant writing, and consulting services.
- ✎ NLLN provides a group subscription for CatExpress from OCLC to help build good shared catalogs within the NLLN region. More than 70 libraries participate in this group subscription. NLLN, with assistance from MINITEX and OCLC, coordinates training and support of the software. CatExpress resources are available on the North Star Library Consortium webpage.

The **North Star Library Consortium** (NSLC) is the largest and most intense NLLN program dedicated to resource sharing and database development.

NLLN and Region 1, an educational service organization in Moorhead, were partners in a \$500,000 Enhancing Education Through Technology grant beginning in the Fall of 2004. The purpose of the grant was to provide a web-based, centrally administered, state-of-the-art library management system for school and special libraries in the NLLN region.

NLLN recruits participants, schedules migrations, facilitates training, provides staff development, hosts the webpages/listserv for the Consortium, and provides overall coordination of the Consortium. Region 1 is the fiscal agent for the Consortium, and provides essential hosting and technical support for the *Destiny* software. It has been a particularly successful venture.

Some of the statistics of this shared system are:

- ✎ 89 school and special libraries are currently participating in the North Star Library Consortium.
- ✎ The shared catalog has well over a million copy records, valued at \$21 million.
- ✎ The shared system has more than 44,000 patrons and has done a circulation of 1.6 million transactions this school year.
- ✎ Participants use an NLLN webpage for additional resources and support one another via a dedicated North Star Users listserv and *Destiny* Users Group meetings.
- ✎ The *Destiny* software is hosted at Region 1 where all software installations, upgrades, backups, data migration and technical support is provided in a state-of-the-art server farm environment.
- ✎ All staff have been trained in the use of *Destiny* and receive their software support directly from Follett. NLLN has provided more than 40 training days and staff development events for Consortium members.
- ✎ NLLN has created a *Destiny* users group which is growing beyond the Consortium to include other *Destiny* users in the region and state.



Marian Rengle, Mn Digital Library, & Gay Galles, Moorhead Public Schools.



Native storyteller Anne Dunn with the children of White Earth.



A training day at Region 1 for *Destiny*.



White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile has an "Open Door" celebration.



Lina Belar with Veteran at "In Their Own Words" Museum, Perham.



Carla Pfahl, MINITEX, and Pat Hanson, West Central Area High School Media Center, with laid back student sculpture

Sharing ideas, materials, expertise, and experience ~ ~

This area includes all kind of "communication" — the ways we use to share ideas, expertise and experience. Communication across such a large region and so many types of libraries is a constant challenge.

The **NLLN webpage** (<http://nlln.org>) was completely redesigned in late 2006 to be content-rich as well as a place to implement new web tools and highlight their use. The page is interactive, timely, and includes new "social networking" features. Some things to look for:

- ☞ Calendar of events / online registration / online scholarship application
- ☞ Northern Lights Insights — a blog that welcomes comments and is organized by category for easy use of the archive. Read it by date or browse the archive by category; comment on anything you read. An RSS feed, del.icio.us link and a blog roll are included.
- ☞ An NLLN Flickr photogallery that also invites comments, browsing by tags or a slideshow.
- ☞ Links to all the Library catalogs including public library catalogs, North Star Library Consortium, MnPALS, and MnLINK.
- ☞ Links to the ELM resources — all of them!
- ☞ Scholarship reports written by scholarship recipients so you can learn more about events they attended.
- ☞ Governing Board agendas, minutes, Director's reports, and more about NLLN.
- ☞ Maps and membership directory; and links to other great library tools/resources.

NLLN publishes a **Newsletter** 8-9 times per year in print and electronic formats, and posts it on the NLLN website.

NLLN hosts 3 listservs:

- NLLN general listserv — for everyone!
- North Star Users listserv — for North Star Library Consortium members
- Multitype Directors Listserv — for MN Multitype Library System Directors

NLLN has **OPAL webconferencing** software for use by anyone in the NLLN region for web-based, voice-over-IP, text messaging, document sharing conferencing at no cost to the users.

Other forms of communication used extensively by NLLN include:

- ☞ Email (nloffice@nlln.org, rsolie@nlln.org, dkeena@nlln.org)
- ☞ Toll-free telephone number (800-450-1032)
- ☞ In-person meetings throughout the region, at conferences, and at local sites.



Brenda Hough and Mary Otto share a moment at an NLLN Annual Meeting.



Reading with kids on White Earth Readmobile.



Chris McArthur, Joan Larson, and Joyce Kalbakdalen at NLLN Governing Board Meeting.



Tami Skinner and Pam Westby, Pelican Rapids Public Library, with "Faces of Change" Exhibit.



Debra Keena,
NLLN Administrative
Assistant



Ruth Solie,
NLLN Executive
Director



Donna Winder, Kathryn Carlson,
and Brook Berg at Spotlight on Books.

Advocacy for all libraries ~ ~

NLLN advocates on behalf of all libraries in many different venues and in many different ways. Some of these include the following:

Advocating at the state level through participation and support of professional organizations and activities:

- ⌘ MLA/MEMO Legislative committee
- ⌘ MLA and MEMO Platform Committees
- ⌘ MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum, and Library Legislative Day participation.
- ⌘ NLLN shares in the expenses of the MLA/MEMO Legislative Lobbyist.
- ⌘ NLLN's Director meets with legislators and congress people on behalf of libraries.

Advocating for all types of libraries outside the Library community through such organizations and events as:

- ⌘ Ready4K Board of Directors and the "Get Mn Ready for K " Initiative
- ⌘ Minnesota Rural Partners Rural Summit Conference
- ⌘ Minnesota Small Town Symposium
- ⌘ Minnesota Book Award Program
- ⌘ Minnesota Initiative Funds and the Early Childhood Initiative Communities
- ⌘ Tribal Councils
- ⌘ "Read Across Minnesota" Program
- ⌘ Brain Development Conference, White Earth
- ⌘ Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
- ⌘ AmeriCorps Volunteer Program—volunteer training sessions
- ⌘ Minnesota Extension Service
- ⌘ ... and many more!

Advocating on behalf of member libraries within their own communities:

- ⌘ NLLN advocates for school media centers and their staff to school administrators and school boards.
- ⌘ Assists Library Friends groups become effective advocates.
- ⌘ Advocates for tribal library services to tribal councils and tribal communities
- ⌘ Advocates on behalf of all libraries to local governments, organizations, and agencies.



Brook Berg, author, loves readers and reading.



The youngest love reading!



Leech Lake Tribal College Library.



Mike Odland, Alexandria, enjoys a good read, too.



Women of NLLN at a MEMO Conference -
Julia Simons, Mary Garlie, Laurie
Conzemius, Gay Galles, Donna Winder.



Governing Board members
Linda Unruh, Merlin Melby
Mike Odland and Norman Ellingson.

**Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board Members
2005-2007**

* indicates current Governing Board Member

Representing Kitchigami Regional Library:
Dan Olson, *Tom Peterson

Representing Lake Agassiz Regional Library
Merlin Melby, Norman Ellingson, *Paul Bursik, *Stanley Iverson

Representing Northwest Regional Library
Marjorie LaValier, *Joyce Kalbakdalen

Representing Viking Library System
Mike Odland, *Joan Larson

Representing Academic library workers
Erika Rux, *Connie Jones

Representing Public Library workers
Barbara Jauquet-Kalinoski, Heidi Hoks, Pam Westby,
*Walter Dunlap

Representing School Library/Media Centers
*Brook Berg

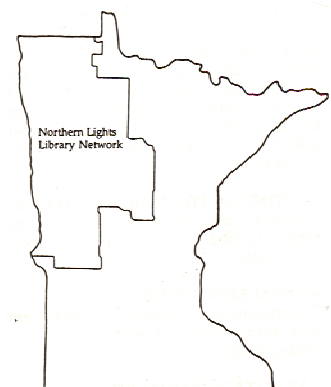
Representing Special Library workers
Lina Belar, *Linda Unruh

NLLN serves the Academic, Public, School, and Special Libraries found in the 23 counties of northwest and west central Minnesota.

18 Academic Libraries
44 Public Libraries
202 School Media Centers
14 Special Libraries

in the counties of

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 ~ Wilkin



Northern Lights Library Network Strategic Plan 2005-2007

Mission Statement

Northern Lights Library Network strengthens library services and advocates for libraries in northwestern Minnesota.

Vision Statement

Northern Lights Library Network's vision is to be a well-integrated system of libraries directed by member library needs.

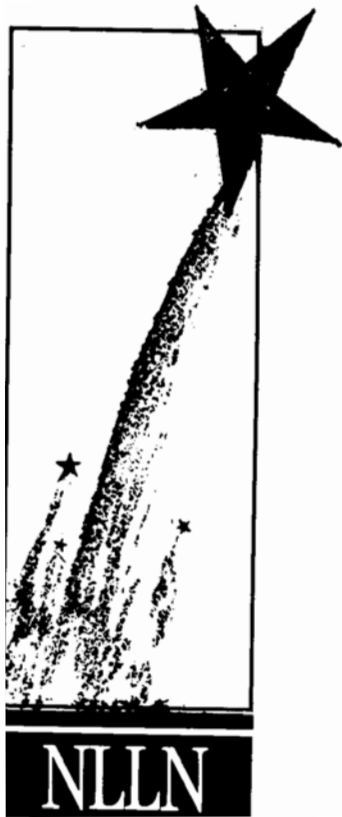
Statement of Values

- ~ *We believe in the freedom of access to information in all forms, for all persons, and celebrate the process of life-long learning.*
- ~ *We value open communication, cooperation, respect, and resource sharing among all libraries.*
- ~ *We believe in advocacy based upon understanding of the social, cultural, political and historical contexts of the communities in which libraries function.*
- ~ *We strive for integrity, competence, personal growth and service to our profession and to our communities.*
- ~ *We are committed to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.*
- ~ *We believe in the value of technology and its role in achieving our goals.*

Goals

1. **Facilitate educational opportunities in the NLLN region for NLLN member library staff, trustees, and Friends of the Library.**
2. **Strengthen cooperation among all types of libraries in the NLLN region.**
3. **Facilitate sharing ideas, materials, expertise, and experience within and beyond the NLLN community.**
4. **Advocate on behalf of all libraries.**

**Adopted by the Northern Lights Library Governing Board, 6/19/2004
Reviewed and accepted by the NLLN Governing Board, 6/18/2005
6/17/2006**

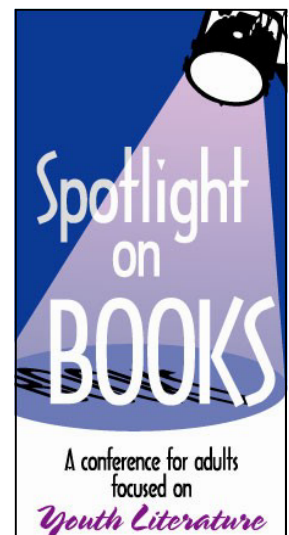


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2005-2007



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