

Library Resources

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MnLINK?

Regular readers of this newsletter may recall that in 1997 the legislature allocated 12 million dollars for a statewide library system to replace the automated systems at the University of Minnesota, MnSCU institutions, and other private and public libraries. In 1998 a vendor was selected, and movement toward a new system seemed to be underway.

However, by the end of 1999, it became increasingly apparent that the vendor would not be able to fulfill the requirements of the contract in a timely manner, if ever. Consequently, the vendor selection process had to begin again. Last summer, public demonstrations of possible systems were held in the Twin Cities. After months of study, including visits to sites where various systems are operational, the vendor evaluation team recommended a system. The statewide Library Planning Task Force concurred with their recommendation.

The system chosen is the Ex Libris ALEPH 500. At this point, contract negotiations are underway. That process is due to be completed by the end of 2000. The current timetable calls for the first group of libraries to migrate to the Ex Libris system by June 2001. The entire process will take approximately 3 years. Where MSU will fall in the schedule has yet to be determined. So MnLINK is still coming, just more slowly than most people would have guessed.

LIBRARY SHIFTS SLATED FOR INTERIM

Between the end of finals, December 15, and the start of the next semester a month later, major changes will occur in Memorial Library. Beltmann Group, a company which has worked with collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries, will begin moving second and third floor collections here December 18. Prior to their arrival, additional shelving will be installed on the east side of second floor to allow more books to be housed there.

All books with location numbers F through Z plus all the oversize volumes will be relocated during the process. Because several moving crews will be working simultaneously, finding a specific book at any given time will be difficult. Consequently, library users will want to check out titles from those sections of the collection before the move begins.

Volumes with call letters F through L will be shifted to take advantage of the additional shelving on second floor. Books with call letters M through PN plus the entire collection of oversize books will be moved from the west side of third floor to the east side of second floor. The rest of the books on third floor will be shifted to the west.

A timetable for construction of offices for computer services personnel has yet to be established. Consequently, the books that ultimately will be shelved in areas now occupied by PALS staff will be housed temporarily in the space currently devoted to oversize books. Once Beltmann has completed their move, library staff will post signs to help users locate books.

The library will be open during regular interim hours Monday, December 18, through Friday, December 22, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The building will reopen January 2 and continue the interim weekday schedule until semester classes begin Tuesday, January 16. Library staff will be on hand every day the movers are here to answer their questions about collection relocation. Anyone coming to use library resources should be prepared for noise and disruption, especially on second and third floors.

While these collection shifts take place on second and third floor, the Educational Resource Center (ERC) in Memorial Library's lower level is also undergoing changes. The wall that separated the media lab from collection and study areas has been removed. Special extra-wide shelving purchased last summer will be installed to accommodate oversize curriculum materials. Most of the collections will be shifted to allow growth space and to incorporate study areas for students. The rearrangement process may extend over several months depending on staff and student schedules.

The January issue of this newsletter will contain maps of the second and third floor indicating the new locations of collections.

NEW GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Because Memorial Library participates in the government depository program, each year we receive thousands of items published by various agencies of the federal government. Although many materials are now provided electronically, during the past year, we still received about 9000 print items. To highlight some of the resources available to the MSU community, we include the location numbers of some recent documents and new government websites below. In future newsletters, we will publish information about materials related to other subject areas.

Print documents are housed in the center area of the first floor of the library between the reference desk and the periodical area. Government documents, except for reference items, may be checked out at the circulation counter for the same time periods as books. See a reference librarian if you need help locating documents.

The following publications may be of interest to those in the College of Education:

- ◆ ED 1.302:AM 3/4/2000-2 America's Kindergartners: Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (National Center for Education Statistics)
- ◆ ED 1.308:SU 7 Survival Guide for New Teachers (Dept. of Education)
- ◆ HE 20.3352:R 22 Report of the National Reading Panel: Teaching Children to Read (National Institute of Child Health & Human Development)
- ◆ ED 1.2:T 22/13 New Teachers for a New Century: the Future of Early Childhood Professional Preparation (National Institute on Early Childhood Development & Education)
- ◆ Y 3.L 61:2 K 54 Kids & the Internet: the Promise and the Perils (National Commission on Libraries & Information Science)

AND these websites:

- ◆ National Center for Education Statistics (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/search.asp>)
- ◆ Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>)