Minitex Talking Points

regarding the

2017 MLA Legislative Platform

WHAT IS MINITEX?

● Minitex is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to improve library service in Minnesota.

● Minitex is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) to serve Minnesota academic and state government libraries. Minitex is a joint program of OHE and the University of Minnesota.

● Minitex is also funded by State Library Services, a unit of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), to support Minnesota libraries and library users.

WHY IS MINITEX VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?

● Minitex connects libraries and individuals with information, ideas, and experiences to enrich lives and strengthen our communities.

● Minitex enables Minnesota’s library community to take advantage of economies of scale with regard to essential library functions: interlibrary loan and delivery, online resources, and purchasing.

● Minitex helps libraries anticipate the future and prepare for it by providing education and training and opportunities for connection.

● Minitex fosters and sustains a culture of collaboration among Minnesota’s libraries.

WHAT IS MNLINK?

● MNLINK is a service of Minitex. The system and ILL services are funded by OHE and MDE.

● MNLINK is a statewide system that serves as a discovery and interlibrary loan interface for library patrons and staff.

WHY IS MNLINK VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?

● Through MNLINK’s participating libraries, patrons have easy access to browsing and borrowing from the catalogs of most libraries in Minnesota.

● In addition to the physical books held in these libraries, MNLINK provides access to electronic resources including journals, images, and ebooks.

WHAT IS THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FOR MINNESOTA (ELM)?

● ELM is a service of Minitex funded by OHE and MDE.

● ELM gives all Minnesota residents online access to magazine, journal, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles, ebooks, and other information resources.
WHY IS ELM VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?
- ELM provides Minnesotans with the best possible access to information resources across the educational spectrum.
- Minnesotans searched ELM 61 million times in FY 2016.

WHAT IS THE MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY (MDL)?
- MDL is a service of Minitex supported by the Legacy Amendment via the Minnesota Historical Society.

WHY IS MDL VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?
- MDL supports discovery and education through access to unique digital collections shared by cultural heritage organizations from across Minnesota. Contributors include libraries, historical societies, museums, and archives.
- MDL provides education and training opportunities concerning digitization best practices, metadata for digital collections, and digital preservation.
- MDL’s primary online collection is Minnesota Reflections. The collection includes more than 50,000 digitized items from 185 contributing organizations.

WHAT IS EBOOKS MINNESOTA?
- Ebooks Minnesota is an online ebook collection made possible in part by funding from MDE through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- Ebooks Minnesota is a joint project of Minitex and State Library Services.

WHY IS EBOOKS MINNESOTA VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?
- Ebooks Minnesota makes ebooks available to readers in every corner of our state, including rural libraries and schools.
- Ebooks Minnesota is an online ebook collection for Minnesotans of all ages. Access to the collection is unlimited; there is no waiting for a book, no “returns,” no charge.
- Ebooks Minnesota covers a wide variety of subjects, and features content from our state’s independent publishers, including some of our best literature and nonfiction.