

Multicounty Multitype Library Systems Helping Libraries Do Together What They Can't Do Alone Talking Points

MLA/ITEM support increased funding from \$1.3 million to \$2 million annually for the seven multicounty multitype library systems to support communication, resource sharing, staff development, and collaborative programming that connects all types of Minnesota libraries.

Connected Libraries and Resources Strengthen Minnesota

Multitype library systems connect people and libraries to the print, electronic, and human resources across library types. This allows stronger response to those using their local public, school, academic, or special library. It leverages the investments made by libraries in these resources. Services include:

- Reference referral
- Cooperative purchasing programs, negotiated discounts, and free materials exchanges
- Communication streams including web sites, newsletters, electronic discussion groups, and regional meetings.

Professional Development and Staff Training Strengthen Minnesota

Multitype library systems connect library staff in all types of libraries to professional staff development opportunities. Trained library staff are better able to meet the needs of their library users. Staff improvement is achieved through:

- Online and face-to-face learning opportunities around ever-changing library products and services
- Regional and local conferences
- Statewide curricula around technology-related learning
- Scholarships/grant opportunities for staff at all levels
- Leveraging the investment in Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) by developing day-long training around databases in collaboration with Minitex
- Connecting library staff across libraries around shared issues of purchasing, selection, reference, and other issues to improve library processes
- Connect school and academic librarians to increase student readiness for post-secondary education

Strategic Planning and Consulting Strengthen Minnesota

Multitype library system staff provide planning and consulting services to all types of libraries. Examples of these services include:

- Policy development and sharing of best practices
- Process review and improvement
- Assistance with decision-making on collection development & discarding of library materials
- Grant-seeking and writing assistance
- Library visits to all types of libraries to assist in organization, remodel planning, & library operations

The seven multicounty multitype library systems have built solid relationships and networks among Minnesota libraries. Staff is trusted to provide high-quality applicable information to libraries seeking education, training, or change. These systems are well-positioned as leaders in the library community to drive change, serve unique needs and with adequate support, will continue to provide first-rate service to strengthen Minnesota libraries.