



Legislative Platform

Strengthening Minnesota Libraries in 2005

Telecommunications

MLA/MEMO supports continued, equitable, and improved high speed connections to library catalogs, online resources, and Internet access for all Minnesota students and residents through full funding for a permanent telecommunications network for K-12 schools and public libraries.

Regional Library Basic System Support

MLA/MEMO supports increasing regional public library basic system support funding by \$1,991,000 per year to maintain current service levels and to support increased costs for delivery of library materials between and among libraries. The volume of delivery will increase because Minnesota residents will be able to request library materials directly from any library using the MnLINK Gateway. This requested funding will partially cover the cost of delivery within the twelve regional public library systems.

Multicounty, Multitype Library Systems

MLA/MEMO supports an annual appropriation increase of \$153,000. This increase, the first since 1997, will allow multitype library systems to assist all types of Minnesota libraries-academic, public, school, and special libraries- to develop, improve, and increase cooperative library services. Multicounty, multitype library systems provide communication, cooperative planning, continuing education, and coordinate sharing of resources for the most efficient use of Minnesota's information infrastructure.

MINITEX

MLA/MEMO supports the MINITEX request of the current annual appropriation of \$4,381,000 with no further reductions. This is a decrease from FY02 when the legislative appropriation was \$5,418,000. The MINITEX appropriation is used to provide resource sharing services to Minnesota academic and state government libraries and funding for statewide ELM databases in collaboration with Minnesota Department of Education's State Library Services & School Technology. The MINITEX appropriation leverages additional funding and services in the state.

Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM)

MLA/MEMO supports adequate funding to continue statewide access to the information resources in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM). ELM is a Web-based virtual library containing online full-text magazines, newspapers, journal articles, encyclopedias, almanacs, directories, and other publications. ELM is a compilation of thorough and accurate information that is easily accessible over the Internet and assists academic, public, school, and special libraries in providing online information resources to Minnesota students and residents.

MnLINK

MLA/MEMO supports an annual request of \$250,000 from the K-12 Education Finance budget in support of MnLINK for the continued operation and expansion of the MnLINK Gateway to provide access to materials in public, academic, school, and state government libraries across the state and access to the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM). These funds would be used in combination with the current \$400,000 base appropriation from the Higher Education budget and would allow MnLINK to add library collections, expand electronic services, and increase stability for Minnesota's information infrastructure.

Information and Technology Literacy

MLA/MEMO supports the inclusion of state-adopted information and technology literacy standards in the K-12 Core Academic Standards for all Minnesota students that include a research process, technology skills, reading and media literacy, and ethical use of technology and information.

Technology/Media Optional Levy Authority

MLA/MEMO supports legislation that would allow school districts to levy (or bond) for technology hardware, licenses, upgrades, support and maintenance, and library media materials and support with school board approval.

