



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LIBRARIES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

continuum



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SIX DEGREES,
NO SEPARATION
LIBRARIES AS
FREE SPACES
GOING FAR BY
GOING LOCAL

REACHING OUT

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
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continuum supports the mission of the University Libraries and our community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends by providing information that:

- > highlights news, events, developments, and trends within the Libraries
- > examines issues facing libraries globally
- > provides a forum for dialogue
- > connects the many constituencies of the Libraries

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THE ENGAGED LIBRARY

The University Libraries are privileged to have two fine libraries named after former Minnesota governor Elmer L. Andersen: our Andersen Horticultural Library at the Landscape Arboretum and the Andersen Library for Archives and Special Collections on the Minneapolis campus. Governor Andersen was a tireless friend and advocate for “his” university’s libraries, but also a lifelong public servant and voice for important issues.

A published compilation of Andersen speeches and reflections, *I Trust to be Believed*, includes a wonderful short speech made on the occasion of a public library dedication. Entitled “What is a Library?,” the remarks describe a threefold purpose of libraries: to support a love of learning, lifetime learning, and freedom of expression. He further comments on today’s libraries blending local collections and a network of information accessible through the Internet. As always, he was insightful about both important social values and the changing landscape of contemporary times.

Our University Libraries reflect that threefold mission Governor Andersen described so well. We serve and support the learning of our students, faculty, and staff. We make our resources available to local, state, and global audiences. And we have an unwavering commitment to freedom of inquiry, bringing our collections and expertise to bear in helping individuals identify information they need for research or personal study.

This issue of *continuum* focuses on our Libraries’ expanded role—a role that, as Professor Harry Boyte suggests, weaves the Libraries’ resources as part of the “fabric of the community.” We’re not just about building collections, but also building democracy in the broadest sense – that is, a community that is knowledgeable and engaged.

Perhaps the most visible sharing of our Libraries’ resources comes about every day as visitors walk through our doors and make use of books, journals, and electronic content. An engineer may need patents or standards information, a high school student may be working on a History Day project, or a class from a local college may be exploring unique and rare resources in the Givens Collection of African American Literature. Each day, hundreds of requests (and sometimes well over a thousand!) also come to the MINITEX service, our state-funded enterprise to share library materials and enable statewide access to information.

With 35 years of service to the state, MINITEX has created an extraordinary suite of services that are unique and put Minnesota

on the map for unprecedented access to information. Thanks to MINITEX and its resource-sharing services that draw on the University Libraries, the University of Minnesota has consistently ranked first among North American research libraries in the volume of loans made external to the campus community. Each year well over 200,000 books, journal articles, microfilms, and other resources get shared around the globe, and the vast majority of these resources benefit Minnesota. As one recent user put it, the service is quite simply “a lifesaver.”

You’ll read here about an exciting new “lifesaver” for all of us, an important service developed by our Health Sciences Libraries. My Health Minnesota → Go Local will bring together health resources from around the state, helping individuals navigate the complex arena of health information. Described as akin to “having a librarian at your side, every step of the way,” the goal is to ensure an informed community when it comes to health decisions.

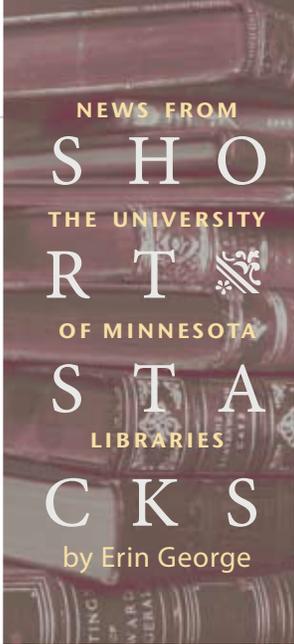
A recent study asked individuals worldwide to free associate and describe their perception of libraries. It is probably no big surprise that the majority of those contacted responded with the word “book.” Libraries are, after all, known for their collections. Increasingly, however, libraries play a role in stimulating ideas, promoting community education, and stirring the pot for creative thinking. The University Libraries and our Friends organizations, for example, hosted more than 50 public events this year. Our programs include everything from our First Fridays series on engaging intellectual topics (for example, the Cold War, political propaganda in Asia, and the history of cartoons) to engaging speakers (Lynne Rosetto Kasper, authors Arthur and Michael Phillips, and Ismael Serageldin, president of Biblioteca Alexandrina in Egypt).

We’re also involved in nurturing and empowering future library professionals. The work of our Early Career Institute is recognized nationally as a phenomenal program for librarians from under-represented groups. Every other summer, we bring some 20 of the best and brightest young librarians from around the country to our weeklong institute.

Libraries have an important role in the various communities we touch. Whether it is in providing critical scientific literature for the undergraduate in biology or helping a citizen navigate the labyrinth of federal legislation, the University Libraries meet the challenge. We take seriously our responsibility to inform, to educate, to delight, to inspire, to enable. Governor Andersen’s remarks captured these engaging roles of the library when he noted, “a library is more an attitude of mind, a set of values that can be reflected in many ways.” As always, he was spot-on.

WENDY PRADT LOUGEE

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN and MCKNIGHT PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR



GOING WHERE NO NOTE CARD HAS GONE BEFORE

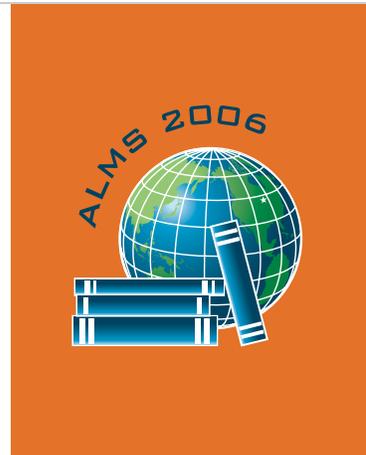
"If I had to go back to writing papers without it, I don't know what I would do," Karen Koch (right), University Libraries' 10,000th RefWorks account holder, says. RefWorks is a web-based citation management tool provided by the University Libraries where students, faculty, and staff can create their own database of references and generate bibliographies in different formats. It is available free of charge to University students, faculty, and staff and can be accessed from any Internet-accessible location. Comparable software can cost \$100 or more for a single copy to use on a single computer. RefWorks gives users the flexibility to sort, search, organize, and reorganize their references to their heart's content, something that note cards are hard pressed to offer. The Libraries were the first RefWorks customer to hit 10,000 accounts, and the milestone was celebrated in March at informal receptions around the Libraries. Koch, a class



of 2007 Ecology, Evolution, and Animal Behavior major, explains, "I now use (RefWorks) with all my papers and research...It is hands down the best tool I have found to help write my papers."

MAKING HISTORY WHILE PRESERVING IT

May 18 through 21 were history-making and history-preserving days at the University of Minnesota: the 2006 GLBT ALMS (Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections) Conference. Presented by the University Libraries, the Libraries' Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies, and Quatrefoil Library, this first-of-its-kind formal world conference for professionals and volunteers working with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender materials drew over 125 attendees. Founded in 1968 and located in St. Paul, Quatrefoil Library collects, preserves, and shares materials and information relevant to the GLBT community. This historic international event was led by experts exploring a range of timely subjects, such as censorship and sexually-explicit material, preservation issues, and working with the media. Activist Barbara Gittings, a pioneer of the American gay rights movement, opened the conference as a keynote speaker. More information at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/events/glbталms/>.



RAH-RAH-RAH FOR... BUSINESS SOURCE ALUMNI EDITION

Last fall, the Libraries started connecting with University alumni around the world in a brand new way through a website making it easier for alumni to find and use the Libraries' rich resources and collections (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/site/alumni.phtml>). The site brings together selected authoritative web resources like PubMed and ERIC (education journals and reports) and answers basic questions about using the Libraries like how to borrow a book or get a copy of a journal article. For members of the Alumni Association (UMAA), the site also serves as a gateway to a new benefit: access to Academic Search Alumni Edition and Business Source Alumni Edition, two databases that contain full-text magazines, business and academic journals, and trade publications. University Libraries partnered with UMAA to provide these resources for members, which complement the site's resources available for all alumni. Traffic has been brisk with over 4,000 hits since the site launched. Interested in UMAA membership? More information at <http://alumni.umn.edu/>.



A MANUSCRIPT IS ITS OWN LABORATORY



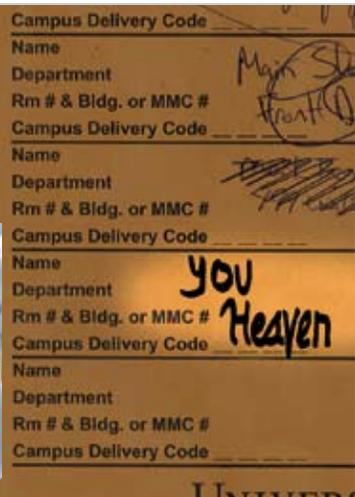
A recently-acquired 15th century legal manuscript provides a unique glimpse of medieval Jewish life in what is now the Czech Republic. University faculty and students will use this resource as a portal into Jewish life and civic rituals. The University has few manuscripts like this, so the joint purchase with the Newberry Library of Chicago makes available study and research that had been limited on campus. The purchase combined the resources of the University Libraries; Center for Medieval Studies; the Center for Jewish Studies; Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch; and Center for Early Modern History with those of the Newberry, an independent research library and educational institution concentrating in the humanities. Since the 1990s, the Newberry has been making joint acquisitions with academic libraries around the country, helping build their own collection and those of other institutions while pooling resources for distinctive acquisitions. The volume will divide its time between the Newberry and University Libraries' Special Collections and Rare Books unit.

WHY YES, I DO KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY



They come in groups led by teachers and alone in singular pursuit. They are the many, the curious, the History Day participants. National History Day in Minnesota is a co-curricular program that encourages students in grades 6 through 12 to explore history and its context, with their research centered around an annual theme, which for the 2005-2006 school year is Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events. The Minnesota Historical Society and the University's Department of History sponsor History Day in Minnesota, and the University Libraries have been a long-time partner in the event, providing expert research guidance for participants and teachers. Over 25,000 students throughout Minnesota participate in History Day, with several hundred of them coming to the University Libraries on the Twin Cities campus to do their research. The students showcase their History Day papers, media presentations, performances, and exhibits at regional events around Minnesota, with top award winners coming to the University's Twin Cities campus in late spring for the state event. For those capturing top state honors, it's on to Washington, DC for the national competition in June.

ARTICLES DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR? IS THIS HEAVEN? NO, IT'S LIBRARIES TO U



A faculty member finds a book in the University Libraries' online catalog that looks promising for her research. When the faculty member is on one campus, say St. Paul, and the book is on another, say Minneapolis East Bank in Walter Library, Libraries to U is the answer. Since the late 1980s, Libraries to U has provided free Twin Cities on-campus delivery of books from the collection to faculty, staff, and students with disabilities. Formerly called Lumina to U (in reference to the online catalog's former name), Libraries to U also provides photocopying and mailing or scanning and electronic delivery for print journal articles and non-circulating materials, like those in the Andersen Horticulture Library at the Arboretum. If that same faculty member is doing research in Bozeman or Berlin or Brooklyn Park, Libraries to U will send the book to her for the cost of shipping. Approximately 15,000 requests are received each year, and faculty, staff, and students can access the online request form at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/site/l2u.phtml>.



SIX DEGREES, NO SEPARATION

AFTER 36 YEARS, THE MINITEX “EXPERIMENT” LINKING MINNESOTA’S LIBRARIES HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL

by Brendan Loughrey

THERE IS A THEORY, KNOWN AS “SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION,” WHICH POSITS THAT EVERYONE IS CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER THROUGH NO MORE THAN SIX PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. COULD THE SAME BE TRUE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS?

When you see books about plywood boats and Islam stacked one atop the other, followed by a movie starring one of the Beatles, you’d be hard-pressed to find a connection, no matter how many “degrees.”

So what is the connection? Users of the MINITEX Library Information Network requested all three on a single day in March 2006.

Seeing *Instant Boats*, *Quran Liberation & Pluralism*, and *Caveman: The Movie* (starring Ringo Starr) all in one loca-

tion may seem odd, but it’s business as usual at what has become the Upper Midwest’s one-stop library resource – the MINITEX shipping room. In its 36 years, the “Minnesota Interlibrary Teletype Experiment” has shortened its name while growing into an Internet-based lending hub allowing patrons from a collaborative of nearly 300 libraries in Minnesota and North and South Dakota to choose from over 33 million titles in the region’s libraries, to be delivered to their neighborhood or school library in an average of 48 to 72 hours.

The service is funded by the state of Minnesota and hosted by the University of Minnesota. North and South Dakota pay for access to the database. This cost sharing covers what would be an unimaginable financial burden if it were left up to individual libraries.

Above: MINITEX Director William De John

The selections that come and go through MINITEX are varied, sometimes unusual and not necessarily scholarly. While the overwhelming majority of the shared materials are academic, Director William DeJohn gives this assessment: “Our number one job is to make sure we get the requested materials delivered as soon as possible.” And, while there are limits on what items can be requested, this “can-do” attitude helped move over a quarter-million books, photocopied magazine articles compact discs, movies, maps, and other materials through the three-state MINITEX region last year alone. Fully one-third of the materials came directly from the University of Minnesota Libraries’ collections, and more than 70 percent of the requests are from students, faculty, and staff of colleges and universities in Minnesota. MINITEX staffer Cecelia Boone was quick to share the credit with library staff network-wide, commenting, “Without the libraries’ willingness to share their resources and valuable staff time, there would be no MINITEX.”

These days, thanks to that sharing and staff time, patrons can search online catalogs for the exact titles they want and have them delivered to their library of choice. Cataloged information is brought together through MnLINK (Minnesota Library Information Network), the state’s virtual library catalog, and through the licensed periodicals, newspapers, encyclopedias and other electronic resources found in ELM (Electronic Library for Minnesota), so users can, theoretically, only visit the library when they actually pick up the titles they requested online. But with the wealth of resources available in each individual library in the MINITEX region, users would miss much by not using their local libraries as well.

“These user-initiated, unmediated requests really began via MnLINK last year,” DeJohn says. “That’s totally new.” But with no librarian involved in the search, DeJohn cautions that “you see all types of books,” as he holds up *The Charmer*, a paperback on its way from the Rum River Library in Anoka to a fan somewhere in southern Minnesota. Beneath it lays a book on substance abuse recovery from a public library in Mankato and another on Teutonic religions from Bethel Seminary.

When you consider the nearly nine million periodical and journal searches initiated through ELM, in addition to the 250,000 requests made through MINITEX and MnLINK, the system is feeding a constant hunger for knowledge.

Yet, for many, the library has been usurped. According to Cathy De Rosa, Vice President for Marketing and Library Services at the non-profit Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), nearly all internet-enabled information seekers believe that commercial search engines trump libraries for ease of use. In what may be the first of its kind, the OCLC report “Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources” conducted an online survey of over 3,000 information users in six English-speaking countries and found that their library searches, 84 percent of the time, began with Internet search engines. Only one percent of respondents said they start with

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Library users in Minnesota, North Dakota or South Dakota have access to tremendous electronic information sites. Minnesota Library users can access MnLINK and ELM with a valid library card from a Minnesota public library. Library users in the Dakotas have similar sites ready and waiting for them.

MnLink

WWW.MNLINK.ORG

ELM

WWW.ELM4YOU.ORG

FACTS & FIGURES

Last year, MINITEX received and delivered:

- ▶ 276,000 unique materials requests
- ▶ 49,000 electronic journal article reprints

Through MINITEX, library patrons have access to:

- ▶ Over 13,000 periodicals
- ▶ Over 14,000 electronic books
- ▶ Over 300 daily newspapers from around the world
- ▶ A worldwide catalog of more than 60 million records
- ▶ A Spanish-language database for native speakers and educational use

MINITEX

WWW.MINITEX.UMN.EDU

“library websites,” placing the answer dead last. One unidentified undergraduate sums it up this way: “Books are all old information. The Internet brings you the latest. It’s the most up-to-date.”

It is true that, for many time-starved information seekers, search engines have become the new reference librarian. Unfortunately, many people start and end their information searches with such engines, which may not be the best source of authoritative answers. Search engines like Google and Yahoo are designed to return the widest array of sites that contain the search term or terms. However, since much of the material on the World Wide Web comes from informal, non-“peer-reviewed” sources, not all web information can be trusted for accuracy.

Many requests that MINITEX receives are for educational use, but large numbers of novels, movies, and other popular materials are requested too. With the option of using the expansive OCLC WorldCat or “worldwide catalog” system, a single keyword search could filter through as many as 60 million titles worldwide. Still, those titles are coming from respected libraries—not faceless blogs or message boards. And Minnesotans have an additional “authoritative” web resource in ELM. The majority of information available on ELM is from reputable and respected sources, and users can even click on “peer reviewed” during a search, to better ensure they find authoritative and accurate sources.

Since 1969, the program, now known as “MINITEX Library Information Network,” has shared the vast assets of what are now hundreds of far-flung libraries. Because MINITEX’s engine processes the University Libraries’ lending, the Libraries rank first out of 123 major academic libraries in North America for the volume of lending outside their primary user community, according to the Association of Research Libraries. In fact, very few programs even approach MINITEX in scope or size, in this country or abroad. However, because it is taxpayer-funded, MINITEX reaches out to students and non-students equally. In fact, as Eric Davis, attendant at the Brooklyn Park branch of the Hennepin County Library says, “All you need is a library card,” and this world of books is your oyster.

And it’s not simply a world of books, but an underworld as well. Deep below the colorful entryway of the University’s Elmer L. Andersen Library (82 feet below, to be precise) is MLAC, or Minnesota Library Access Center. At 600 feet long and 18 feet high, this humidity- and temperature-controlled cavern holds nearly 900,000 important but lower use materials from libraries throughout the region. A second identical cavern holds archives and special collections materials of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

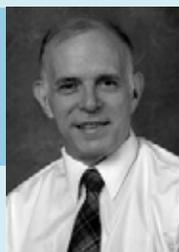
The location, security and sheer size of MLAC brings to mind visions of James Bond villains and secret lairs, yet for the enormous wealth of printed words, MLAC is designed for efficient storage, not as a collection where visitors browse. Quite simply, MLAC is a repository where valuable but seldom-used books are safely stored for possible future use. All Minnesota libraries have the option of depositing their lower use books in MLAC—freeing up their shelf space for more actively used material but keeping the deposited materials available as well. However, should you someday find yourself in need of a photocopied article from *Munsey’s Magazine* circa 1897, the 1948 *Far Eastern Journal* or Soviet Studies from 1964, someone could quickly retrieve your selection, thanks to MLAC’s unique tracking system.

The books in MLAC are, surprisingly, shelved according to height. “We can hold 40 percent more materials if we store them according to size, rather than alphabetically or by subject,” says DeJohn. Once a title is brought in, it’s measured, bar coded, and stored in one of the thousands of identical 18-inch deep bins. Items are tracked by a barcode—on each bin—the book’s original call number is not used to find it. “I can’t tell you exactly where any single book is in MLAC, but I can get you within 18 inches of it,” DeJohn explains with a laugh.

With more than 1,700 K-12 libraries in its territory, MINITEX connects over 2,200 individual libraries. “It’s funded by all of our tax dollars, so it’s a benefit that is to be shared by all of us,” DeJohn says.

So just how does the system work? Let’s follow a request from the first click of the mouse to when the title arrived at my local library.

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by Harry C. Boyte

SENIOR FELLOW, HUMPHREY INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What is to be the fate of libraries as spaces rooted in local communities, in a future of Google, ipods, and Blackberries, washed over by a tsunami of commercial culture? *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, in his recent best-seller *The World Is Flat*, envisions a future of consumers shopping at Wal-Mart and getting their information from cyberspace. In his scenario, libraries are like the do-do bird – or independent book stores and mom-and-pop corner groceries—soon to be extinct.

Soon after the trauma of 9/11, Nancy Kranich, the former president of the American Library Association, sketched an alternative. Noting that in the days following the attack, “Libraries in New York and around the country provided comfort, fellowship, news, and resources,” Kranich argues that “instead of seeing their efforts as ‘library building,’ our traditional approach, librarians are beginning to refocus their vision to the perspective that we are creating ‘social capital.’”

Kranich’s focus on social capital, the norms and networks that facilitate social cooperation, was a call for an alternative future in which we recover a strong sense of place, the cultures of place, and the values and practices of civic life. She is pointing toward libraries as democracy-building free spaces, grounded in the life of communities and helping in the revival of civic life. We have seen such possibilities in our own work at the Center for Democracy and Citizenship in the Riverview Library on the West Side of St. Paul, a low-income immigrant community.

The link between education and the civic life of places was a great tradition in the upper midwest, not only in cities but also in smaller communities. The late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey traced his famous political career to his father’s drug store in the little town of Doland, South Dakota. The drug store functioned as a space for deliberation, argument, and action. “In his store there was eager talk

about politics, town affairs, and religion,” Humphrey writes. “I’ve listened to some of the great parliamentary debates of our time, but have seldom heard better discussions of basic issues than I did as a boy standing on a wooden platform behind the soda fountain.” Activities in the drug store enriched the civic life of Doland in multiple ways. The store functioned as local lending library and cultural center – music came from the window of the second floor, from his father’s rickety phonograph. It catalyzed action. The drug store was sustained as a free, public-creating space because his father did public work as a citizen businessman.

Community-rooted centers of learning and public work have weakened not only from the forces of globalization but because of the training of professionals in recent decades, in which higher education has played a role. As the intellectual historian Thomas Bender describes in *Intellect and Public Life*, “In [the] largely successful quest for order, purity and authority, intellectuals severed intellectual life from place.”

But against the tidal wave of globalization and its discontents, it is more vital than ever to create cultures of learning grounded in the civic life of places. On the West Side, we have seen possibilities for libraries to take leadership. Riverside Library is a partner in the Neighborhood Learning Community (NLC), a neighborhood-wide collaboration which is about the reintegration of children’s education into the life of a place and its relationships. It seeks to involve the whole community in creating a “culture of learning.”

For more than a century, the West Side has been a first port of entry for low-income immigrants. Founded in 1917, Riverview Branch Library in the late 1980s under the leadership of Mary Margaret Sullivan revived older practices of engaging new immigrants, in this case immigrants from

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GOING FAR BY GOING LOCAL

THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES LAUNCH A CRUSADE FOR STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION

by Jessica Nordell

SPEND FIVE MINUTES IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER WITH LINDA WATSON AND YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD A LIBRARIAN AT YOUR SIDE EVERY TIME YOU LOGGED ON.

In a bright office at the top of Diehl Hall on a recent Monday morning, Watson, Director of Health Sciences Libraries at the University of Minnesota, demonstrates how to use a health website. Her eyes sparkle behind delicate wire-rim glasses as she zips between pages. "Here's where you find all the latest press releases—here's where you can find a tutorial on knee surgery. Oh, and here are some pretty graphic surgery videos," she says. Watson navigates to a page featuring toxic chemicals found on farms, and she becomes positively animated while scrolling between information on chromium and asbestos.

As Watson steers nimbly through pages chock full of information, it becomes clear that the skills librarians offer

are exactly what the Internet needs: the ability to manage, vet, and organize massive amounts of information. In the area of health information, this need is especially crucial—the wrong information can have dire consequences. And it just so happens that Watson is on a mission to bring flawless health information to every person in the state of Minnesota. Watson's initiative, a project called **My Health Minnesota → Go Local**, is a website that will transform the way Minnesotans manage their health.

The project's parent site is MedlinePlus, a health information website operated by the National Library of Medicine and host to everything from a medical dictionary to health check tools. It's widely used by patients, their families, and health care providers; in the first quarter of 2006, nearly 22 million unique visitors used the site. Here, one can find tutorials on problems from back pain to sleep disorders, videos of

Above: Health Sciences Libraries Director Linda Watson (left) and reference librarian Vicki Glassgow.



a living donor kidney transplant (not for the faint of heart), a step-by-step guide to having a CT scan, drug and herbal supplement information, and the latest news in health and medicine.

Susan Mayer, a library science student at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, used MedlinePlus during an internship at the Brain Injury Association. When case managers needed information about the long-term effects of a concussion, Mayer was able to immediately link to abstracts of case studies and journal articles from the site. Sarah Garbis, a former medical librarian at Hennepin County Medical Center and current librarian for the Hennepin County Libraries, has been using the site since its launch in 1999 to help library patrons, her family, her friends—and herself. “Just yesterday I looked up information on ankle pain,” she says. “You can educate yourself before you see your doctor, and come up with questions to ask, or know what questions they might ask.”

Until recently, however, a patient was on his or her own in finding that doctor. MedlinePlus Go Local, a series of state-specific companion sites that catalog all the health resources in each state, aims to change that by directing users to health resources in their geographic region. With Go Local, a patient may navigate directly from a health topic—knee surgery, kidney transplant, or CT scan, for example—to local clinics, screening centers, and support groups.

Among the 13 states that have Go Local sites, these resources have proved tremendously useful. According to Peggy Richwine, project manager for Indiana Go Local,

Above: <http://medlineplus.gov/>

people often use the site to find nursing homes for elderly parents: in addition to basic information, the Indiana Go Local lists each home’s evaluation from the State Board of Health. Richwine was recently contacted by the Indianapolis Children’s Hospital as well; the hospital plans to refer physicians throughout the state to the site so they can in turn refer parents to local resources for parenting and child abuse prevention.

Jean Blackwell of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Libraries helped a father use North Carolina’s Go Local site to find resources for his schizophrenic adult daughter. Blackwell referred him to articles on MedlinePlus and then to specific clinics and specialists in the area. “He sent us a letter saying, ‘I finally feel some hope for finding help for my daughter,’” says Blackwell. “He was extremely grateful.”

In other states, MedlinePlus has helped people facing access barriers to health care. Barb Jones of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine recalls hearing a Spanish-speaking construction worker in Columbia, Missouri, talk about how he used the Missouri site’s Spanish language option to find information about his diabetes in his native language and then locate the resources he needed in what was essentially a foreign country. And Eduardo Crespi, director of Columbia non-profit Centro Latino de Salud, Educacion y Cultura (a center serving the working class Latino population) believes Go Local is especially helpful for low income or working class people; they might not have Internet access at home, but through library computers, they are able to access the information they need.

Watson wants Minnesota to be the next state with a Go Local site of its own, to be called **My Health Minnesota → Go Local**. Her goal—to demonstrate Go Local at the Minnesota State Fair this fall and launch the full site next January—is ambitious. The project is essentially a cataloging of all the health resources in the state; it requires an array of partners and volunteers who will help build and maintain the site, including University of Minnesota librarians, Mayo Clinic Libraries staff, library students, and rural librarians. Minnesota’s State Library Office is providing financial support through a recently awarded grant. Watson’s crack team

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DEAR FRIENDS,

As this issue of *continuum* so vividly demonstrates, the University of Minnesota Libraries are not insular and restricted entities, to be used exclusively by University students and faculty. While serving our University faculty and students is our primary focus, the Libraries, part of this great land grant University, are intended to serve researchers and scholars from all of Minnesota, from

across the U. S., and from all parts of this increasingly interconnected world. The Libraries welcome members of the general public to use our resources. In fact, even borrowing privileges are available to certain categories of the Friends of the Libraries members.

The Friends of the Libraries play a unique and important role in library outreach—especially in the Twin Cities, where we showcase new acquisitions and present stimulating lectures, performances, and other events that show off the collections and Libraries’ programs. Friends events provide opportunities to meet and hear from scholars, authors, and subject experts. For example, this spring we heard from acclaimed poet and University professor Michael Dennis Browne, whose personal manuscripts and teaching papers are now part of our Manuscripts Collection in Elmer L. Andersen Library. Browne read from his work and shared highlights of his career at a public event on March 23.

The Friends also partner with local organizations such as the Minnesota Orchestra, whose archives have been an important part of the Performing Arts Archives since 1975. To celebrate our ongoing collaboration with the Orchestra, the Friends invited Orchestra President Tony Woodcock as the featured speaker at the Friends’ Annual Meeting on May 4. Tony led us through a fascinating exploration of what goes into putting a world-class symphony performance on stage and shared his own love of music and belief in its transformational power.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LIBRARIES
Friends of the Libraries

The Friends value learning, intellectual curiosity, and a love of literature, and we want to share the riches of the University Libraries with our community as much as we can. Information on our fall programs will be sent to you soon.

For those *continuum* readers who are not already members of the Friends, I invite you to join so that you will enjoy:

- ✿ Access to the Libraries’ resources and the ability to borrow materials
- ✿ Opportunities to meet exciting and fascinating people who share common interests
- ✿ Invitations to lectures, author readings, and other dynamic events

Your participation will help us spread the word about the Libraries’ exciting collections and resources. It will enrich your world and ours.

MARY MCDIARMID
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES



Wendy Pradt Lougee, University Librarian, Tony Woodcock, President of the Minnesota Orchestra, and Mary McDiarmid, President of the Friends of the Libraries, celebrate the Friends Annual Meeting on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat.

Alumna Maxine Wallin has enjoyed a lifelong relationship with her *alma mater*

Maxine Wallin is the very picture of a happy alumna. A Duluth native, the 1948 magna cum laude graduate of the College of Liberal Arts so enjoyed her time at the University that she's never really left and has never ceased to learn, grow, and care about others. She has also retained a lively interest in the University Libraries.

Wallin's memories of her undergraduate years are vivid. She recalls the time she spent as a member of Kappa Delta sorority on campus: "We had busboys in white coats, candlelit dinners, and a grand piano in the living room with fresh flowers on top. What a great way to live!"

It was during this time that Wallin's interest in philanthropy developed. She and her sorority sisters raised funds for University activities and scholarship funds. But since then, Wallin's philanthropic interests have grown. She and her husband, Win, have generously supported many philanthropic causes, including establishing the Wallin Scholarship Program, which makes it possible for academically talented students with financial need to attend college. Since 1991, the Wallin Foundation has awarded more than 1,500 scholarships to college-bound students from the Minneapolis Public Schools. "I had scholarships myself," Wallin says, "so I know how important they are."

After she graduated from the University, Wallin was hired to work at a large mortgage loan company in Minneapolis. The work paid the bills, but she realized she was "talking about books to my colleagues, and yet I was filling out housing cards all day long." Wallin yearned to return to the world of books and academe.

She secured a job at Walter Library as a circulation clerk. Later, she worked in the reserves area. The job stimulated her senses as well as her mind. "I used to go into the stacks just to smell the books," she remembers.

In fact, Wallin's work environment inspired her to earn a second bachelor's degree in library science, which she com-



pleted in 1950. She was promoted to the position of cataloger and began processing the University's collection of some 90 Stuart tracts, rare volumes that chronicle the history of 17th and 18th century England.

"The project took a year to complete," Wallin explains. "Some [of the tracts] were by famous people like Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift. These were people who fought for freedom of religion, education, and political view."

Because she spoke five languages—Spanish, French, Latin, German, and Russian—Wallin also catalogued foreign titles and materials related to world travel, notably many of the maps and documents that now comprise the James Ford Bell Library's collection. "You would read the stuff as you worked—just for fun," she says. "It was so interesting, particularly Mr. Bell's collection."

But even though Wallin retired from the University Libraries in 1955 when her husband took a job in Utah, she's maintained an active presence at the University. She served for three years on the board of the Friends of the Libraries—a post that inspired her to support the Libraries' annual Student Book Collection Contest.

Launched in 2000, the contest recognizes University undergraduate and graduate students who have developed unique or unusual collections of books. Winners receive a cash award, and their collections are exhibited in Wilson Library. Recent winners entered collections of books about Polar literature, the history of engineering, and Japanese novelist Kenzaburo Oe.

These collections cover "such a variety of subjects," Wallin says. "Every year it strikes me that so many students are taken with the idea of collecting."

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The Institute for Early Career Librarians changes the face of librarianship

LINDA DEBEAU-MELTING AND PEGGY JOHNSON ARE LOOKING AT PHOTOS OF PAST PARTICIPANTS IN THE MINNESOTA INSTITUTE FOR EARLY CAREER LIBRARIANS FROM TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS. THEY'RE CAUGHT UP IN MEMORIES.

"Remember Paulita?" Johnson exclaims. "She's just so cool. Remember Rina? Oh—she was just amazing! Remember?"

Their voices are warm with pride, almost parentally fond. But DeBeau-Melting and Johnson are decidedly not den mothers. Senior administrators at the University of Minnesota Libraries, they are also the founders of the biennial Institute, which provides a weeklong intensive developmental experience for minority librarians in the first three years of their professional careers, focusing on leadership, grantwriting, program assessment and evaluation, and creating a peer network. The Institute draws librarians from across the country.

"It's tough being a new librarian with all these older, experienced people," Johnson remarks. But what the Institute offers goes beyond warmth—it's a crash course in leadership and practical skills, designed for academic librarians from groups traditionally underrepresented in the profession.

DeBeau-Melting and Johnson started the Institute in 1998, fueled by their experience mentoring and working with library residents who were minorities. They observed that minority residents seemed isolated, both by youth in a field dominated by older librarians, and by being people of color in the predominantly white field of academic libraries. Only 12 percent of academic librarians are people of color, which doesn't reflect the national demographic or even the demographics of the academy.

UNIQUE AND PURPOSEFUL

The Institute is unique in this country. There are residencies elsewhere, the American Library Association (ALA) has schol-

arship and mentoring programs for minority students that take them through the graduate degree, and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) offers leadership programs targeted to minority librarians. But there is nothing else like the Institute.

The focus on academic librarians is purposeful. In the first year the group was made up of academic and public librarians, and they were found to have divergent needs. Also, as DeBeau-Melting points out, public libraries do not seem to share the academic world's struggles with hiring and retaining of minority librarians.

One goal, Johnson points out, is retention: "We want to make sure that we are able to keep minority librarians in the profession. We try to create a psycho-social environment that is supportive. And it has also been a great opportunity for our own recruitment, introducing us to talented librarians."

OUT OF THE WAITING LINE

"These people are so good; you would want most of them to join your staff immediately," DeBeau-Melting says. "I mean, they are stars. We tell the participants, 'You know you're good. You can do this! Get out there and apply for those jobs, get those grants. Break the mold—get out of the waiting line.'"

Past participants demonstrate the program's success through their own achievements. Paulita Aguilar, who attended in 2004 and is now curator of the Indigenous Nations Library Program at the University of Mexico, says that her experience at the Institute was invaluable in her search for a better and more permanent position.

"When I attended the Institute I was at a crossroads. I knew I needed to move from point A to B, but did not have the skills to do that," Aguilar says. "I applied Institute teachings to my search for a job. I developed a four-year plan, goals, and objectives. A national search for a new position opened



at my institution, and I was among the chosen candidates. I was offered the position in October 2005.”

The participants, though, aren't the only stars. “The trainers are the heartbeat of the program,” DeBeau-Melting says reverently—and indeed, the lineup is most impressive. This summer, the leadership and interpersonal skills sessions will be taught by two national leaders in the profession, Kathryn Deiss and DeEtta Jones, both former ARL staffers. Professional skills training will be facilitated by fundraising and planning specialist Barbara Davis, of St. Mary's University and the University of St. Thomas. The University of Minnesota's own Dr. Richard Krueger, an expert on focus group interviewing, will also teach a session.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Another goal is the creation and sustenance of peer networks among early career librarians. As Johnson points out, “Our experience with minority residents is that they feel isolated. And not being part of the majority culture adds to the sense of isolation.”

As soon as participants are accepted to the Institute they are added to a listserv used to share information and answer questions. Very soon the listserv users start to introduce themselves.

“They start to get to know each other before they come here,” Johnson says. “By the time they've been here four days they have developed such intense friendships. They've been through this self-examination together, and it's very intimate. By the time we have the farewell dinner on their last day, they cry, we cry—they've found soul mates.”

The listserv is kept separate for two years until the next group is accepted, and then it is integrated with the larger group.

“They tell each other about job openings, they plan get-togethers at conferences, they publish together, they present at conferences together,” Johnson says.

2004 participant Kawanna Bright, who will be returning to the 2006 program as an alumna, confirms that “the friends you make at the Institute will be friends for life. You get a new support network to talk to, bounce ideas off of, share opportunities with, and lean on when you need them. You don't always

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The Andersen Horticultural Library brings botany to new audiences

THINK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES. WHAT COMES TO MIND? EXTENSIVE COLLECTIONS? TIMELY ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC MATERIALS? EXPERT LIBRARIANS?

How about flowering begonias and Japanese shrubs?

Botanical beauty may not be everyone's first association with the Libraries, but at the Andersen Horticultural Library—located at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska—plants are par for the course.

The library was the brainchild of former Minnesota Governor Elmer L. Andersen, a tireless advocate for the

lection because we have very good bibliographic control—we know what we have and we can tell people about what they're looking for."

The library serves a wide range of users, including Arboretum visitors, University faculty, and researchers from across the country who hail from institutions like the University of Notre Dame and the University of Kentucky. "Some people come to see some beautiful flowers, colors, or a serene place just to unwind," Isaacson says. "Likewise they come into the library to look at the furnishings and atmosphere. But some come in for another purpose—to choose a tree for their yard, or to find out about perennials.

"Researchers like to use our collection because we have very good bibliographic control—we know what we have and we can tell people about what they're looking for."

University whose other namesake library on the Twin Cities campus houses archives and special collections. Andersen helped design the library's space and specified its distinctive furnishings, all designed by acclaimed furniture artist George Nakashima.

Nestled inside the Arboretum's Snyder Education Building, the Andersen Horticultural Library opened in 1973 with nearly 3,000 volumes and the beginnings of a serial collection. Now, the library boasts some 15,000 monographs and several major research collections.

One of these is a collection of seed catalogues—more than 45,000 catalogues, to be exact, from over 5,000 firms and from as far back as the mid-18th century.

"It's one of the largest such collections in North America," explains head librarian Richard Isaacson, who has worked at the library since 1985. "Researchers like to use our col-

Then there are researchers who use the library for a really serious purpose—academic researchers that want in-depth information about some aspect of plants."

And sometimes, users in far-flung locations access the Andersen Horticultural Library's collections without visiting in person. For example, Isaacson says, "Librarians and researchers at the Bibliotheque Nationale in France use our collections online because they're relying on our published source lists—the largest listing of North American plant varieties in the world."

In a way, then, the Andersen Horticultural Library is a true "outreach library," extending its tendrils past the University to the citizens of Minnesota and the world.

Even so, continued outreach is a key priority. "We need to keep getting the word out about the library," Isaacson said.

WALL FLOWERS



Iris germanica
Redouté, Pierre Joseph (1759-1840)
Les Liliacées
Paris: Didot the younger, 1812
vol 6 Plate 309 Collection of Andersen
Horticultural Library

This image is from Pierre Joseph Redouté's *Les Liliacées*, produced in Paris from 1802 to 1816 using Redouté's unique stipple engraving process. 486 plates of 476 different plants were included, and the plants were found in the gardens of Empress Joséphine Bonaparte. A new limited edition framed print of this image is now available for purchase.

Wilfrid Blunt, in his *The Art of Botanical Illustration* (1950), states that Redouté was "the most celebrated flower painter of his day—the most popular, indeed, in the whole history of botanical art." Joséphine's extravagant tastes included the hiring of thousands of gardeners for Malmaison, her garden outside Paris, and the commissioning of these botanical art masterpieces to document her plant collections. Andersen Horticultural Library is fortunate to have Redouté's works in its collection, gifts of Governor & Mrs. Elmer L. Andersen.

The objective in originating this print was to celebrate the work of Redouté with a museum-quality reproduction of his *Iris germanica*. Dr. Joseph A Messicci, master printmaker of Studio Editions Ltd., Minneapolis, was selected to create the edition of 125 prints. These museum quality prints are produced with water-based vegetable dyes and have been professionally framed behind glass.

The University of Minnesota Libraries are proud to offer this unique work of art to the public in this limited edition for \$150 each. To inquire about purchasing a framed print of *Iris germanica*, contact the [continuum](#) editor: jameso52@umn.edu.

BRIGHT STARS from page 15

get that from your place of work, and even if you do, how often do you get that with 24 other people?"

Ed Rock, who attended the 2000 session and is now in reference services at Tulane University, adds, "I would definitely recommend the investment of time and money to any early career librarian. Getting to know colleagues from other backgrounds, library programs, and work settings is perhaps the most valuable thing about the Institute—in other words, the networking."

THE INSTITUTE'S CHANGING FACE

DeBeau-Melting and Johnson are sensitive to the importance of keeping the group diverse. Earlier Institutes were largely made up of African-American librarians. DeBeau-Melting

points out that the "American Library Association's Black Caucus members have always been the most helpful group in getting the word out on the Institute, but now other groups, representing other ethnicities, are helping out." More Latino and Asian-American participants have been attending the Institute, and last year, several Native American librarians attended.

Aguilar confesses to having had little exposure to other minorities before the Institute: "I'm American Indian from Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico. At the Institute I was surrounded by black sisters and brothers from all over the U.S. and discovered they were a lot like me. The entire Institute was rich, and I'm still trying to digest aspects of it, but it's an experience I'll never forget and will continue to draw on."

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BRIGHT STARS from page 17

There's also a rich diversity of viewpoints, as discussions on the listserv frequently prove. There was a lot of vigorous discussion recently when an African American librarian sued her employer, charging racial and gender discrimination. The listserv discussion was hardly of a single position on the well publicized case. Future attendees eagerly anticipate this mélange of experiences, as 2006 participant Stephanie Joseph attests: "I want to be part of an environment that welcomes different perspectives, including those of Native Americans."

As they approach the start of the fifth Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups, DeBeau-Melting and Johnson reiterate their dedication to the goals of the program. "We have a personal commitment to do what we can in our little sphere," DeBeau-Melting says. "We're really fortunate."

Their sense of enthusiasm is infectious. "By the time participants have been through the program," Johnson concludes, "they're saying 'I know what I'm doing. I may be young, but hey—I'm good!'"

LIBRARIES AS FREE SPACES from page 9

South East Asia, Central and Latin America, and Africa. The library went into the community instead of waiting for immigrants to come to the library. It built sustained relationships with community groups. And it positioned itself as a vital information commons. "All of the traditional models of library services don't work anymore when you're working with communities new to the American public library system," said Andrea Moerer, who headed the community engagement effort. "Just sending out flyers and having newspaper articles in English doesn't work." Sullivan argues that as a result, "We had become a part of the fabric of the community. And that was the goal."

Riverview Branch Library was thus prepared to be a leader in the NLC, a program that began in 2001. Riverview housed an effort called the Community Information Corps, in which teenagers, coached by adults, surveyed hidden learning resources of the community and created a web site for them

(<http://westsidelearning.org>). It became active in the Youth Apprenticeship Program, in which teenagers are placed as apprentices in local institutions. It has created new reading programs for children as part of All Around the Neighborhood, a collaboration of community groups, parents, teachers, and young people which aims to fuse learning into everyday life (<http://publicwork.org>).

Historically, the genius of Minnesota's educational tradition was linkages between learning and civic life, with libraries often leaders. The West Side NLC—and Riverview—suggests multiple new possibilities for this linkage in the 21st century. And libraries at the University of Minnesota are called to multiple roles in a new movement to renew civic life. For instance, as integral parts of a world class research university, our University of Minnesota Libraries have a responsibility to claim their intellectual power and leadership on such issues through lectures, discussions, fora, featured debates and discussions in publications like *continuum*, and other means. Close to home, the University Libraries can strengthen their role as living spaces for meetings, face-to-face dialogue, repository and display of information about neighboring communities and the state.

As libraries become grounded free spaces for the information age, they will move from "library building" to "democracy building."

GOING FAR BY GOING LOCAL from page 11

will begin with health information currently available through Minnesota 211, the United Way's database of Minnesota information ranging from Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to snake control specialists. The team will then index and catalog the health information so that it functions within the existing MedlinePlus database. Librarians in rural Minnesota will be responsible for identifying additional resources and helping maintain the site, ensuring that information about specific clinics and doctors remains accurate. And Watson's team will visit the state's library systems to ensure librarians across Minnesota know what the site is and how best to use it.

Watson came to the University of Minnesota last August from the University of Virginia (UVA) where, as Director of the

Health Sciences Library, her passion for outreach was born. Looking for a way to connect rural populations with UVA's medical library resources, she installed an outreach librarian six hours away from campus in the Appalachia region of the state. This librarian served as a liaison between UVA students in the rural rotations of their medical training and the rural clinics and pharmacies they served. She helped connect students, patients, and health care providers to the resources of UVA's Health Sciences Library, and she also helped the library understand how it could better serve these rural populations and clinics. Through this outreach librarian, Watson effectively extended the university's resources to a region not typically served by a major research university.

Watson has been at the University of Minnesota for little over six months, and she began fueling the Health Sciences Libraries' own outreach efforts to greater Minnesota soon after she arrived. To start, she installed an outreach medical librarian in Duluth in order to help connect northeast Minnesota populations with the Health Sciences Libraries' resources. This librarian will assess the information needs of Minnesota's rural health practitioners by speaking directly with clinicians at community clinics and pharmacies throughout the state. She'll also teach rural librarians how to find and use quality health information resources and will be available to help University of Minnesota-Duluth medical students with library in their rural rotations.

With Go Local, Watson and her array of partners will extend librarian-tested health resources to the entire state. While some might be daunted by the sheer managerial skill needed to run the project, Watson is excited: she believes that involving people throughout the state in the creation of this site will spread the sense of ownership over it as well, and that will help ensure its success. Everyone, she believes, should be able to make informed decisions about health and find the care and support they need; the more information people have, the better they'll be able to be make those decisions. Fortunately, Watson is in a position to ensure that the information itself is well organized, well managed and correct. Navigating the terrain of health information may be complex, but with **My Health Minnesota → Go Local**, it'll be like having a librarian at your side, every step of the way.

SIX DEGREES from page 8

First, I needed to search for something of interest. I chose instant boats, a topic which, until recently, was totally unknown to me. A quick check on MnLINK, the gateway to online catalogs of Minnesota libraries, revealed *Instant Boats* as well as several other works by author Harold "Dynamite" Payson. Seeing that he has published new work since that seminal book, I chose his book *Build the New Instant Boats*. Two clicks later, and the request was complete.

Since the book was on the shelves at the Detroit Lakes public library, the request was forwarded there. A courier then collected the book and drove it to the MINITEX office. My book soon reached the MINITEX loading dock deep beneath Andersen Library. From there, it made its way up a 250-foot conveyor belt to the Shipping Room. It was coded, boxed, secured and sent to my local library branch. Nearly every title is located, shipped to the Twin Cities and shipped to its intended user within days. The process is repeated roughly 1,000 times each day.

In my case, the library emailed to inform me that *Build the New Instant Boats* was ready for pickup five days after I ordered it. When I stopped in to pick up my book (and I swear on the good boat-building book in my hand), who should be working at the counter but my son's godmother's younger brother—only three degrees of separation. Apparently there's something to the theory.

STAYING ENGAGED from page 13

An avid reader herself, Wallin particularly enjoys works of nonfiction, especially biography and memoir. She also pursues a host of other interests, including tennis, ice skating, and tap and ballroom dancing. She has also served on many community boards, including those of the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Hennepin County Library Foundation.

But words are her deepest love. Wallin says she's never forgotten the alma mater that so stimulated her interest in words and ideas. "I did love school," she says. "The whole atmosphere at the University is so inspiring." As is Maxine Wallin.

POOLING RESOURCES

The University Libraries have a long history of outreach and cooperative resource sharing. In this image, taken in 1952, University Libraries staffers pack books for the Midwest Inter-Library Center. The Center was a cooperative venture of 20 major midwestern libraries designed to pool lesser-used research materials held by member institutions in a central storage space and to cooperatively acquire scholarly material that no single library could purchase. The Center was founded in 1949 with money from the Carnegie Corporation and the Rockefeller Foundation and was located at the University of Chicago. It continues today as the Center for Research Libraries.

Image provided by University Archives.



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