



**Recommendations of the 2014 Libraries and Service Delivery
Consultant Group**

Fiscal Year 2015

Report

To the

Legislature

As required by

Minnesota Laws of 2014, Chapter 272, Article 7, section 2

COMMISSIONER:

Brenda Cassellius, Ed. D.

**Recommendations of the 2014 Libraries
and Services Delivery Consultant Group
February 2015**

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Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to prepare this report was approximately \$ 1,971. Most of these costs were mileage reimbursements for Consultant Group members, and incidental costs for consultant group meetings.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2011, section 3.197, which requires that at the beginning of a report to the Legislature, the cost of preparing the report must be provided.

Recommendations

Libraries and Service Delivery Consultant Work Group

With an overarching goal of ensuring equitable and cost-effective access to statewide library services, the 2014 Libraries and Service Delivery Consultant Group was charged with making recommendations to the commissioner of Education regarding:

- Increasing access to emerging electronic services
- Increasing service delivery and collaboration between library governance systems
- Options for changing current library procedures and library governance systems to increase collaboration between library systems

The consultant group met six times and discussed a number of topics related to library structures and services.

Recommendation – State funds for an incentive or grant program that supports partnerships between public libraries and school districts that are focused on enhancing early learning opportunities, reducing summer learning loss, bolstering college/career readiness and achieving other goals of the World’s Best Workforce.¹

***Background:** Libraries play a critical role in helping children to prepare for school and to achieve academic and career success. With more than 350 public libraries and 2,008 K-12 public schools in communities of all sizes in Minnesota, there is tremendous potential for libraries to help children enter school ready to learn, reduce summer learning loss, close the achievement gap and connect students to college and career opportunities.*

Recommendation – Funds for a statewide collection of e-books, administered by State Library Services, that supports school curricula, academic standards and K-12 literacy.

***Background:** The explosive growth in the demand for e-content has created challenges for library collection budgets. A similar growth in one device per student programs in schools has created challenges for schools, where collection budgets are typically smaller. There is a desire to ensure that all Minnesotans have equitable access to e-content collections that meet recreational and academic reading needs and help to close the achievement gap.*

Recommendation – New state appropriations to fully fund the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library² and interlibrary loan and delivery through Minitex³ so that federal Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funds are available for local and statewide projects that address key priorities.

***Background:** Public, academic and some school libraries collaborate to share books and other materials statewide through a robust interlibrary loan and delivery network that manages over 500,000 requests annually. The Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library serves more than 10,000 residents who are unable to use standard library materials and rely on the availability of digitized audio materials. These services are currently funded with a combination of state and federal dollars, which limits the opportunity to use federal LSTA funds for innovative projects that leverage local dollars to address local needs.*

Recommendation – That the Minnesota Department of Education works with key stakeholders to establish a “Plan for Better Libraries,” a framework in line with the Governor’s “Seven-Point Plan: Better Schools for a Better Minnesota.”

The group further recommends the following activities as part of a comprehensive planning process:

Recommendation – Formation of a task force (with representation from all funding and program-level stakeholders) charged with identifying unique challenges to service delivery and recommend structural changes or changes to Minnesota Statutes 134 that will ensure equitable and cost-effective services for all Minnesotans.

1. Recommendation – Establish benchmarks for public libraries, based on national norms, to allow administrators to measure performance related to community outcomes. Establish standards (technology, staffing, collections, etc.) for public libraries that address minimum levels of participation in library systems and statewide services.
2. Recommendation – In the absence of standards for school media centers, establish benchmarks based on national norms for school media programs that allow school and district administrators to measure performance related to school and student outcomes.
3. Recommendation – Increase the Multicounty Multitype Library System Operating Aid⁴ and the Regional Library Basic System Support⁵ appropriations to the level needed; and change the Regional Library Basic System Support distribution formula to ensure equity of funding statewide.

Background: *Minnesota’s libraries operate in an environment that has undergone significant change since the regional public and multicounty multitype systems were established. Minnesota’s library structures are complex, with varying reliance on state/local resources. Similar to the Governor’s Seven Point Plan: Better Schools for a Better Minnesota, a Minnesota Department of Education-endorsed “Plan for Better Libraries” that articulates the role of libraries in early learning, education, lifelong learning and economic development would describe the vision and mission for Minnesota’s libraries and clearly communicate key services and service outcomes, local funding expectations and performance standards.*

Recommendation – Support from the Minnesota Department of Education for statewide efforts to ensure that all Minnesota schools, libraries, households and businesses have access to high speed broadband.

Background: *The advent of the internet and the explosion of information and essential government services that are available online have simultaneously increased the demand for services and the need for reliable high speed broadband.*

Internet connectivity is essential to a public library’s ability to serve its community; a reliable and robust community-wide broadband infrastructure allows residents 24/7 access to essential resources such as e-books, online tutoring and the range of e-resources provided by the Electronic Library for Minnesota.⁶

¹ “Striving for the World’s Best Workforce” legislation was passed in 2013 to ensure every school district in the state is making strides to increase student performance. Each district must develop a plan that addresses the following five goals:

1. All children are ready to start kindergarten.
2. All third-graders can read at grade level.
3. All achievement gaps between students are closed.
4. All students are ready for career and/or postsecondary education.
5. All students graduate from high school.

² The Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, is located in Faribault, Minnesota and provides direct library service to preschool age children to seniors with visual, physical and reading disabilities for whom conventional print is a barrier to reading. The library

is funded through Minnesota Department of Education general funds and federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant money from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

³ Minitex is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to improve library service for their users in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Minitex is a joint program of the Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota with additional funding from the Minnesota Department of Education.

⁴ Multicounty, Multitype Library System Operating Aid (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 134.354) is a biennial legislative appropriation disbursed on a formula allocation to the seven multicounty, multitype library systems.

⁵ Regional Library Basic System Support (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 134.355) is a biennial legislative appropriation disbursed on a formula allocation to the twelve regional public library systems.

⁶ Electronic Library for Minnesota, administered by Minitex and funded by the state through appropriations to the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, gives Minnesota residents online access to magazine, journal, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles, e-books (online books), and other information resources.

Attachments

1. Minnesota library statistics
2. Map of Regional Library Systems
3. Map of Multicounty, Multitype Library Systems
4. For a map of all public libraries in Minnesota, please visit the Minnesota Department of Education's Data Center (<http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Maps.jsp>).

Minnesota's Libraries

Public Libraries and School Media Centers

VITAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**25 Million
Visits**



Public libraries are busy places

Minnesota's public libraries were open 14,635 regular weekly public service hours, welcoming visitors morning, afternoon and evening.

**3,170,267
Library Cards**



Library cards are widely carried and heavily used

Minnesota's public library card holders checked out more than 54 million books last year.

**5,970 Public
Computers**



Public libraries close the technology gap

People used the internet 5,811,501 times, searching for jobs, completing homework assignments and connecting with others. 99% of library locations offer free Wi-Fi for personal devices.

**56,732
Programs**



People of all ages attend free events

990,706 children; 73,114 young adults; and 290,735 adults--a total of 1,354,555 people--attended arts, cultural and educational programs at their public libraries.

**356 Public
Libraries**



Libraries are community hubs

With 212 meeting rooms available for public use, libraries hosted 50,677 events sponsored by community organizations.

**115% Growth
in E-content**



Access to e-content is statewide

The Electronic Library for Minnesota offers residents home access to 48 diverse databases; circulation of e-books and e-magazines grew more than 65% between 2012 and 2013.

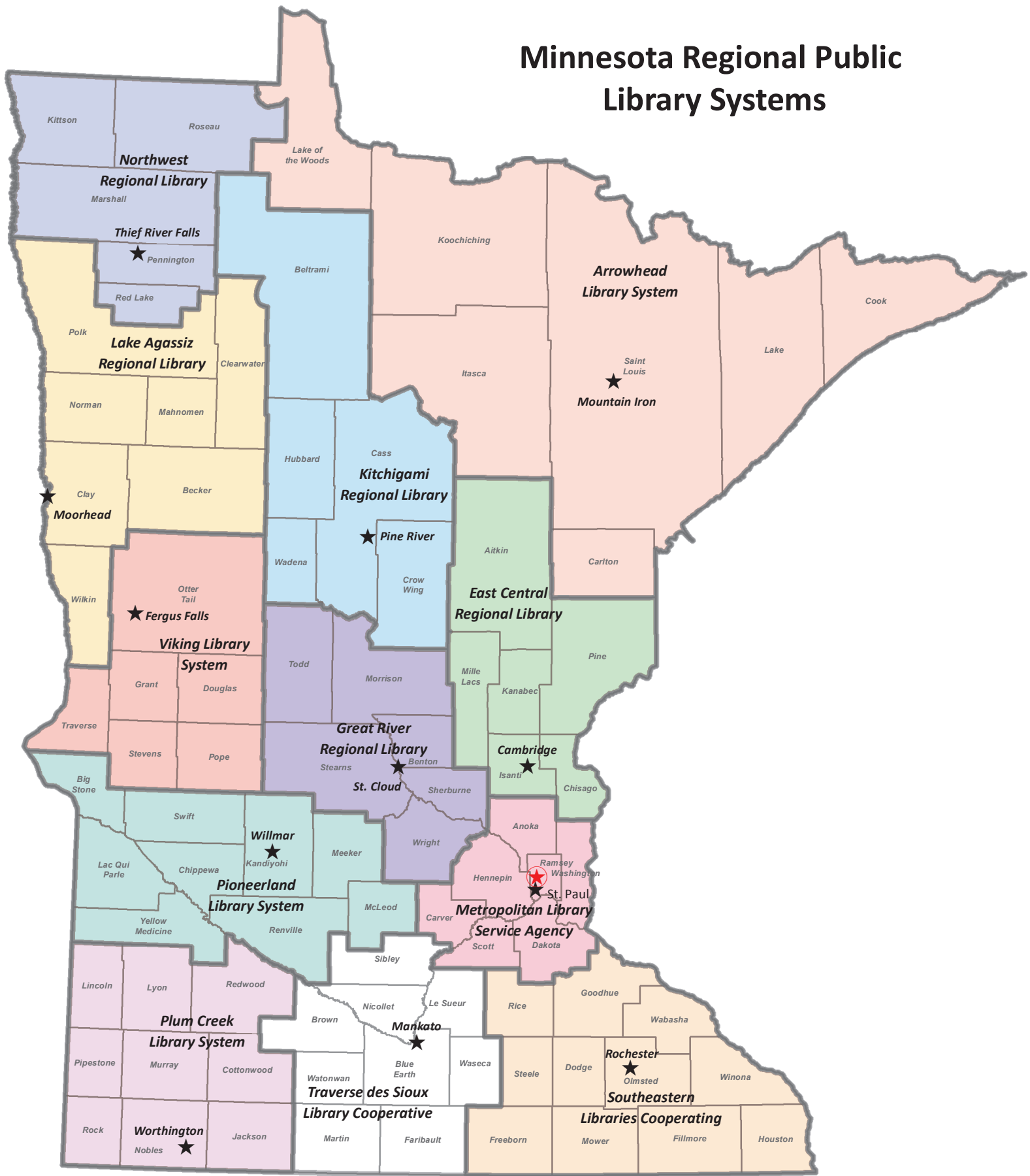
**633 Media
Specialists**



Public schools are equipped with libraries

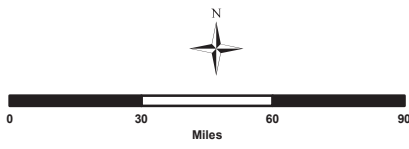
Minnesota's 1,570 school library media centers are staffed in part by more than 600 School Media Specialists.

Minnesota Regional Public Library Systems



Map Information

- ★ State Library Services
- ★ Regional System Office
- Library Region Boundary
- County



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Project: M0213
 Date: 11/2013
 Path: c:\ArcGIS_Projects\M0213
 Source: Minnesota Department of Education, State Library Services
http://www.education.state.mn.us/mde/learning_support/library_services
 Contact: Scott Freburg, MDE-IT scott.freburg@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Education

Regional Public Library Systems

[Arrowhead Library System \(ALS\)](#)

[East Central Regional Library \(ECRL\)](#)

[Great River Regional Library \(GRRL\)](#)

[Kitchigami Regional Library \(KRL\)](#)

[Lake Agassiz Regional Library \(LARL\)](#)

[Metropolitan Library Service Agency \(MELSA\)](#)

[Northwest Regional Library \(NWRL\)](#)

[Pioneerland Library System \(PLS\)](#)

[Plum Creek Library System \(PCLS\)](#)

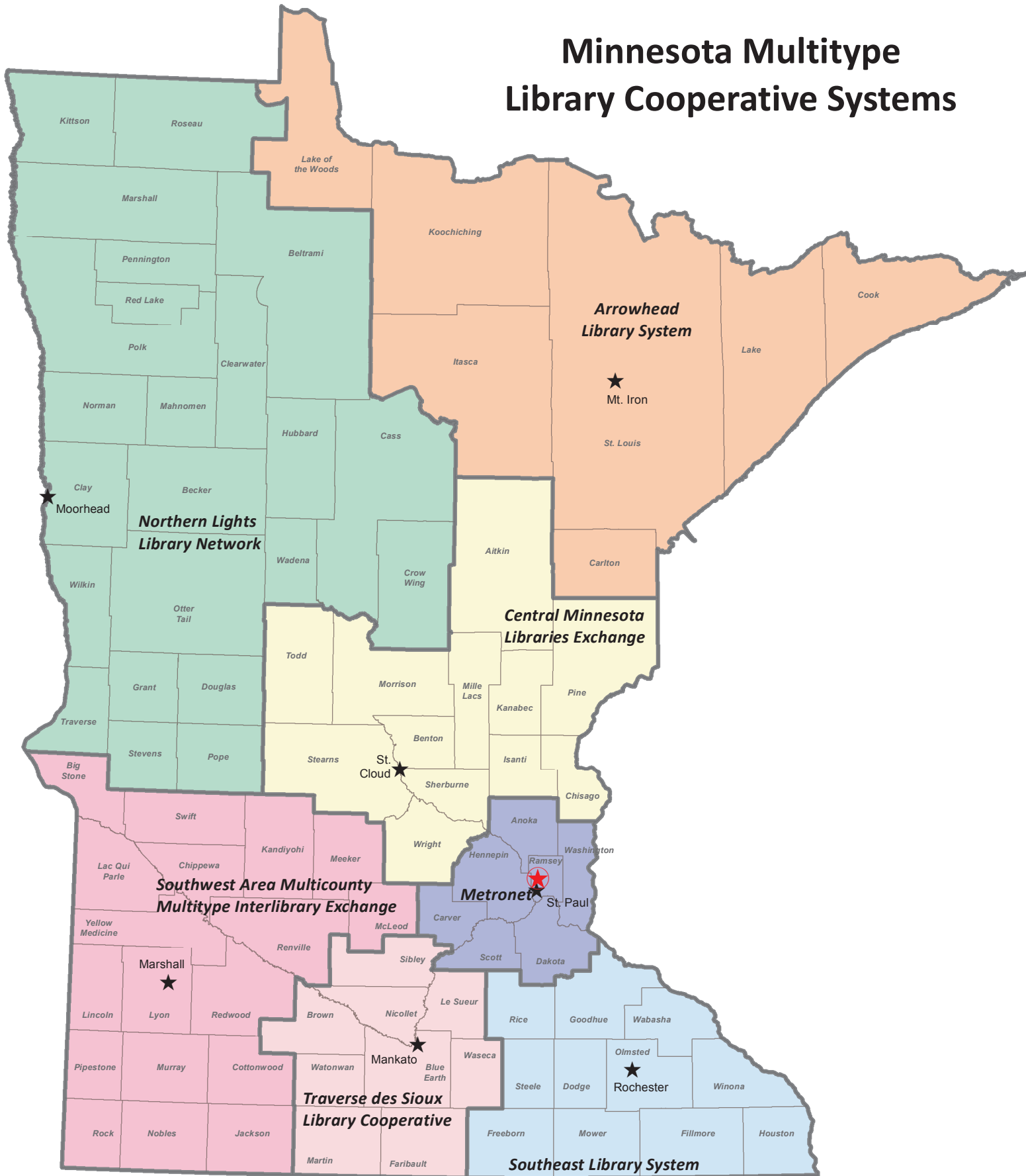
[Southeastern Libraries Cooperating \(SELS\)](#)

[Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative \(TdS\)](#)

[Viking Library System \(VLS\)](#)

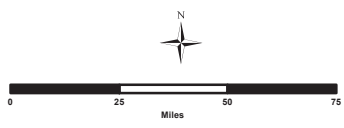
[State Library Services](#)

Minnesota Multitype Library Cooperative Systems



Map Information

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- ★ Multitype Regional System Office
- Multitype Library Cooperation Systems
- County



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Project: M0213
 Date: October, 2013
 Source: Minnesota Department of Education, State Library Services
http://www.education.state.mn.us/mde/learning_support/library_services
 Contact: Scott Freiburg, MDE-IT scott.freiburg@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Education

Multitype Library Systems

[Arrowhead Library System \(ALS\)](#)

[Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange \(CMLE\)](#)

[Metronet](#)

[Northern Lights Library Network \(NLLN\)](#)

[Southeast Library System \(SELS\)](#)

[Southwest Area Multitype Interlibrary Exchange \(SAMMIE\)](#)

[Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative \(TdS\)](#)

[State Library Services](#)