

Minitex

DEDICATION, COLLABORATION, INNOVATION.

FY2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

MINITEX & MINNESOTA'S LIBRARIES: A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE

Minnesota's library community is beautiful, complex, and driven by the repetition of a core idea: *EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION.*

This fractal repeats, too. A fractal is a curve or geometric figure, each part of which has the same character as the whole.

The **Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM)** includes encyclopedia, magazine, journal, and newspaper articles, plus multimedia, primary sources, and much more. Last year alone, Minnesotans searched ELM **61 million** times.

MNLINK connects library patrons with nearly all of Minnesota's libraries in one easy-to-use website. Last year, the system handled over **495,000** interlibrary loan requests, an increase over the previous year.

The new **MNLINK .org website** was introduced after more than two years of preparation. The updated site makes it even easier for patrons to search for library books, articles, movies, music, images, and more.

Minitex **Delivery** handled over **910,000** items last year.

Minitex was awarded **\$695,000** by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to enhance SimplyE, an ebook app. When the work is done, users will be able to access ebooks from their public library, school, university, or other sources (such as Ebooks Minnesota), all in one place.

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libraries saved money on databases and library products through **Cooperative Purchasing** programs and services.

AskMN is an online reference desk available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Last year, librarians from AskMN's network of **44** libraries answered **37,000** questions.

Minitex's **70** employees collaborate with library staff across Minnesota and the nation to provide free and equal access to information for all people in all communities.

Minnesota Reflections is Minnesota's premier, searchable, online collection of primary source materials. The collection contains nearly **51,000** digitized photos, maps, letters, works of art, and more, all shared by cultural heritage organizations from across the state.

The **Minnesota Digital Library** has collaborated with **182** partner organizations to create and preserve digital collections and to provide enduring open access to Minnesota's cultural legacy.

Ebooks Minnesota, a statewide ebook collection for readers of all ages, launched last year. The collection offers over **3,700** books to any reader within Minnesota's borders. The collection was made possible by Minitex and the Minnesota Department of Education.

The **Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC)** is a high-density underground storage facility that contains **1.5 million** volumes from 21 contributing libraries. Last year, nearly **17,000** items were retrieved for patrons by Minitex staff.

Minitex **Conferences & Events** brought **5,109** librarians and library staff together to learn, collaborate, and build professional skills.

Minitex News published over **1,000** articles and newsletters about Minitex and the library community.