

FY23 ANNUAL REPORT



Libraries are more than books. Libraries are community centers open to all, bent on empowering their patrons to live their best lives.

Minitex has been serving libraries since 1971. We got our start over 50 years ago, sharing the collections of the University of Minnesota via interlibrary loan, with patrons at 15 libraries. Today, we work with nearly every library in Minnesota, and our list of services has grown. We offer statewide access to a broad set of e-resources, a cooperative purchasing program, support for digital collections, an online chat reference service, professional development opportunities for library staff, and much more.

Over the past year, we took major steps forward with two of our most important services, eLibrary Minnesota, and MNLINK. In order to save libraries money and ensure equitable access to important healthcare resources, we added two databases to eLibrary Minnesota: EBSCO CINAHL Complete, and ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Premium. Thanks to the work of the MNLINK Transition Task Force (and its 10 members representing eight organizations), MNLINK is on course to launch a comprehensive new discovery and interlibrary loan interface in the coming year. To read more about these highlights and many more from the past year, visit z.umn.edu/mtx-23.

"Minitex offers the opportunity for a small local library to open up a wealth of resources to our patrons.

Public library staff, Northeast Minnesota

MISSION

To strengthen libraries, cultural institutions, and the communities they serve.

VISION

Connected libraries. Empowered communities. Enriched lives.

VALUES

Inclusiveness - Service - Partnership - Expertise

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



AskMN

Online reference service staffed by librarians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- ▶ Library staff answered nearly 40,000 questions through AskMN. AskMN also celebrated its 15th birthday, and welcomed Winona State University and Arrowhead Regional Library System to its cooperative.

"24/7 chat is very helpful for our patrons, students especially. They use library resources at all different times of day, and being able to chat when our library is closed is great for them."

Academic library staff, Northeast Minnesota



Minnesota's statewide ebook collection for readers of all ages

- ▶ Minnesotans viewed the collection nearly 275,000 times, a 12% increase over the previous year.

"Our school had been subscribing to a very expensive ebook platform. After putting the Ebooks Minnesota collection into our district MackinVIA account, we were able to move away from that subscription. Ebooks Minnesota allows us to provide great ebook options for students and put our savings toward other crucial resources."

K-12 library staff, Metro Region



Encyclopedia, magazine, journal, and newspaper articles, plus multimedia, primary sources, and more

- ▶ Minnesotans found over 12.3 million full text items in ELM, an 8.8% increase from last year. They searched ELM over 56.4 million times, an increase of 2.3%.

"It is amazing to have access to all of the databases in ELM. Our library could NEVER afford subscriptions to even a fraction of that, and they're so important for research."

Public library staff, Central Minnesota

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY

Historical content from Minnesota's cultural heritage organizations, all in one place

- ▶ MDL's digital collection grew to nearly 59,000 items, representing 203 contributors located in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. Even better, visitors to MDL's online collection increased their use of the collection by nearly 4 percent.

"I regularly refer patrons to MDL to be able to get a closer look at our fragile historic materials."

Government library staff, Metro Region



Resource Sharing & Delivery

The rich resources of Minnesota libraries, available to patrons and libraries in every corner of Minnesota

- ▶ Resource Sharing staff processed 231,590 requests, roughly equal to the previous year.
- ▶ Minitex Delivery handled 723,209 items, a nearly 4% increase over the previous year.

"We obtain medical journal articles all the time that assist health providers in caring for patients."

Special library staff, Metro Region

"The University of Minnesota Rochester would have a great deal of trouble serving the faculty and staff without the robust delivery system that Minitex offers."

Academic library staff, Southeast Minnesota



The online interlibrary loan portal to Minnesota's vast library resources

- ▶ Minnesota library patrons requested 512,573 items via MNLINK, a 7% increase over the previous year.

"A few of the families that homeschool children have become avid users of MNLINK. They are able to access a much larger collection of items than our local system can support."

Public library, Northwest Minnesota

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



Minnesota Library Storage

High-density storage for academic, public and governmental libraries

- Minitex staff paged 10,596 items to fill patron requests, an increase of 8.4% over last year. They also retrieved 10,466 items to support Google scanning projects, and collaborated with University of Minnesota Libraries staff on planning for a new joint collection facility.



Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project

Online publishing tools for independent authors, supported by Minnesota's libraries

- MLPP readership increased nearly 20%, with a total of over 1 million page views, an increase of 19% over the previous year. Minnesota writers published 27 finished books on MLPP spanning a wide variety of genres.



Professional Development

Webinars, conferences, and in-person training sessions for library professionals

- Via institutional partners and directly through staff, Minitex delivered over 150 training sessions, including 5 conferences, to at least 4,841 attendees.

"Excellent programming. We are blessed to have Minitex!"

Academic library staff, Southwest Minnesota



Cooperative Purchasing

Discounted prices on a wide variety of e-resources and products for libraries

- Minnesota libraries saved over \$4.1 million by purchasing through Minitex. Taking all sales into account, including those made in 31 states outside Minnesota, total sales volume exceeded \$15.3 million.

"Minitex made it possible to stay within our budgets because of the cost savings."

Academic library staff, Southeast Minnesota

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Minitex is, at its core, a collaboration. From our inception in 1971, all the way up to the present day, our most important achievements are the result of partnerships with libraries in Minnesota and beyond. Minitex staff contribute to the work of numerous committees, councils, task forces, and work groups, both within and outside Minnesota's borders.

Minitex itself serves as the convener of a minimum of ten such groups. All told, the groups listed below rely upon the collaborative efforts of **178** individuals from **90** different organizations.

MNLINK Transition Task Force

Charged with recommending a new software platform for MNLINK. The task force convened in May 2022 and offered its recommendation in April 2023.

Minitex Shared Print Operations Committee

Manages a shared-print retention partnership supported by academic and research libraries across the state of Minnesota. Reports to the Policy Advisory Council.

Ebooks Minnesota Collection Development Committee

Charged with creating a collection development policy that provides the residents of Minnesota with access to a wide range of ebooks suitable to all ages.

Minnesota Digital Library Governance Committee

Guides and oversees MDL. The Committee is composed of leaders representing a variety of cultural heritage organizations and libraries.

Minnesota Digital Library Selection Committee

Composed of librarians, educators, and history professionals. Charged to review project proposals from cultural heritage organizations, libraries, and other organizations from across the state.

Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC) Advisory Board

Charged with developing guidelines and providing the vision for MLAC, the high-density storage facility for Minnesota libraries that stores and makes available important but little-used books.

MNLINK Operations Committee

Serves as the advisory body to the Policy Advisory Council on policies related to the administrative aspects of MNLINK. Develops and recommends plans, policies and standards.

Council of Academic Library Directors (CALD)

An informal committee convened by Minitex and composed of academic library directors from two- and four-year and institutions within the state of Minnesota.

Shared E-Resources (SER) Task Force

Minitex selects statewide e-resources (including those in [eLibrary Minnesota](#)) through consultation with the SER Task Force. The Task Force represents libraries of all types from across the region.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Policy Advisory Council (PAC) is our most important collaborative body. The PAC advises the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minitex Director in the planning, development, and evaluation of Minitex programs and services.

Twin Cities & Southern State Colleges

Deanna Munson
Anoka Technical College

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Lisa German
University of Minnesota Libraries

State Universities

Beth Clausen
Metro State University

Multi-Type, Multi-County Library Systems

Ashley Dress
Southeast Library System (SELS)

K-12 Schools

Ashley Krohn
Edina Public Schools

Greater Minnesota Public Libraries

Will Richter
Grand Rapids Public Library

Private Colleges

Emily Waitz
Northwestern Health

State Government Libraries

Molly Riley Niehls
Legislative Reference Library

Central & Northern State Colleges

Rachel Milani
Minnesota North College, Hibbing

University of Minnesota System Campuses

Matt Rosendahl
University of Minnesota Duluth

Metro-Area Public Libraries

Margaret Stone
Dakota County Library

Regional System Libraries

Scott Vrieze
Metropolitan Library
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Tribal College Libraries

Ignacio Mendez
Red Lake Nation Tribal College

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

South Dakota

Dan Daily
University of South Dakota

George Seamon
South Dakota State Library

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Johnna Horton
PALS

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Tami Lee
State Library Services

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Mary Soucie
North Dakota State Library

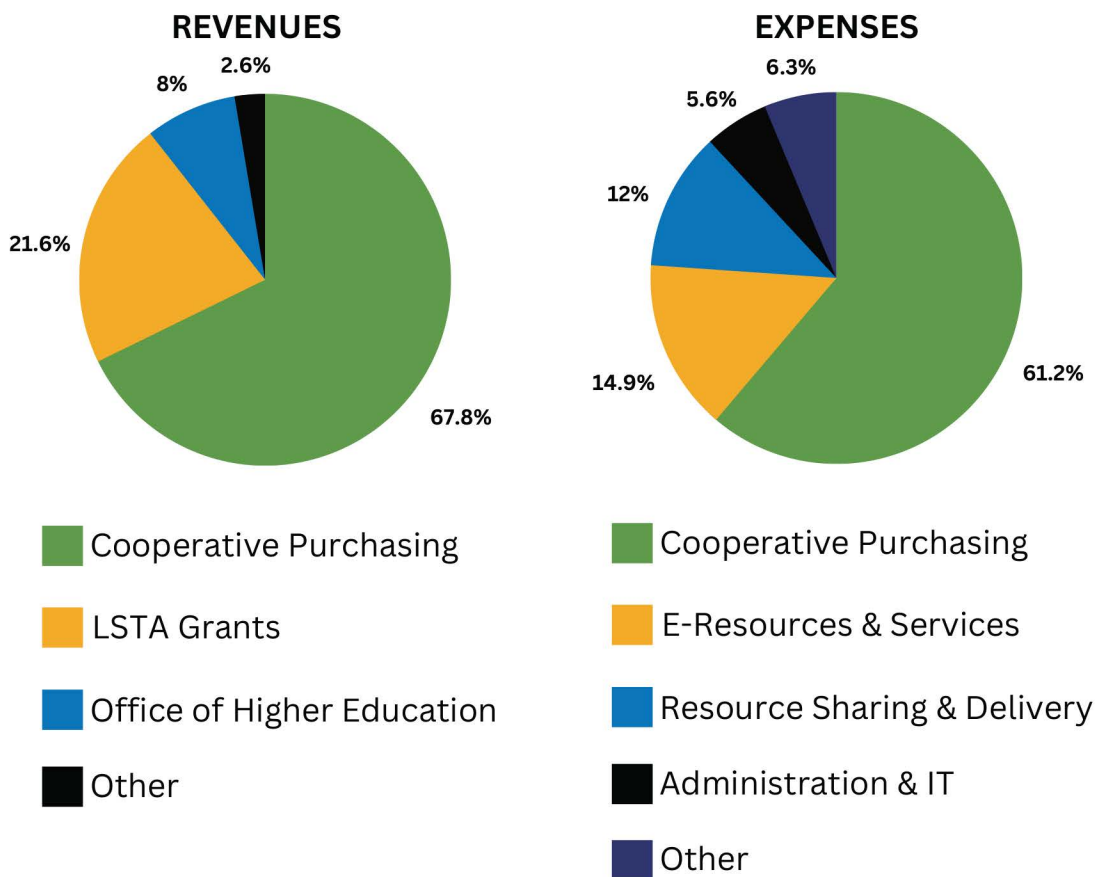
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Nekey Oliver
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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Minitex's current strategic plan, the main objectives of which are available online at z.umn.edu/mtx-strat-20, comes to a close this year. We have engaged the services of Janice J Consulting to create our new strategic plan in fall 2023. The plan's primary objectives will be determined by library community needs and by input from Minitex staff and key stakeholders, including the Policy Advisory Council. A number of priorities already identified are, however, likely to be included. These include the implementation of a new MNLINK platform, and the expansion of our work with regard to K-12 schools and open educational resources and affordable content (OEAC).



Minitex maintains an annual budget of \$27 million. Our funding is primarily through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) and also includes federal (LSTA) grants administered by State Library Services, Legacy Amendment funding through the Minnesota Historical Society, and agreements with the state libraries of North Dakota and South Dakota. Our Cooperative Purchasing service (CPERS, see chart) is a cost pass-through enterprise delivering cost efficiencies for libraries and schools across our state and region.

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Minitex is an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries.