

# 2001 Legislative Platform

**Minnesota Library Association  
& Minnesota Educational  
Media Organization**

## **Public Library Funding**

*MLA-MEMO supports annual appropriation increases for regional public library systems and for continued regional library telecommunications funding.*

### **Regional Library Basic System Support Grant —**

The need to promote reading, to provide books, to share library materials including delivery, and to guide the public in using electronic resources puts tremendous pressure on the regional public library systems. Increasing funding to \$15 million annually will assist local government in meeting the demands on their public libraries. These funds will leverage public library resource sharing throughout the state.

### **Regional Library Telecommunication Aid —**

An annual appropriation of \$3.6 million will assist regional public library systems to support statewide electronic connections. Citizens use these connections to search and find materials in public libraries statewide. Without this aid, public libraries individually would not be able to support public Internet access, ITV and sharing library materials and resources.

**School Library Media  
Licensure —** MEMO-MLA supports efforts to maintain the professional status of Minnesota library media specialists as both licensed classroom teachers and licensed media specialists.

## **School Library Funding**

*MEMO-MLA supports the establishment of a school media specialist position within the Department of Children, Families & Learning and continued K-12 telecommunications funding.*

**School Library Media Center  
Specialist —** MEMO-MLA supports an appropriation of \$90,000 annually to reestablish a position at the Department of Children, Families & Learning to provide leadership and development assistance to school media programs.

**School Library Media Program  
Study —** MEMO-MLA supports an appropriation of \$100,000 to identify the elements of school library media programs that contribute to student learning.

## **Collaborative Library Funding**

*MLA-MEMO supports appropriations for collaborative programs among all types of libraries. This request annually increases the multicounty, multitype operating grants, and earmarks funds to continue and expand statewide licensing of commercial databases.*

**Multicounty, Multitype Library  
System Operating Grant —** The public including children, parents, businesses expect cooperative services and programs among school, public, academic and special libraries. An annual appropriation of \$1.5 million will assist the seven multitype systems in leveraging cooperation, planning, and communication to provide stronger cooperative library service.

**Database Licensing** — Students, parents, and teachers need equal access to the materials found in electronic databases. State licensing of quality commercial databases of magazines, newspapers, and reference information is a cost-effective way of giving every Minnesotan the opportunity to address their learning needs at school, home and in the library. An annual appropriation of \$750,000 will assist the school and public library community in providing this collaborative service.

## State Agency Libraries' Funding

*MLA-MEMO supports appropriations for state agency libraries to improve services at the Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and to assist state agency libraries in making their unique materials accessible statewide.*

**Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (MLBPH)** — MLA-MEMO supports a request of \$238,000 in the first year of the biennium and an ongoing annual appropriation of \$194,000 in the second year to replace the computer system, acquire a T1 telecommunications line and add permanent full-time staff positions. The Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped directly serves over 11,000 Minnesotans of all ages who are unable to use print materials because of blindness, physical disability, or a reading disability that is organically based.

## State Agency Libraries

**Appropriation** — MLA-MEMO supports an annual appropriation of \$211,000 for state government libraries. This increase would expand their libraries' automation, and assist with adding their libraries' materials to the new MnLINK integrated library system. These libraries contain many unique materials that need to be made available to the public and other libraries.

## MLA-MEMO supports the following legislative initiatives...

### Telecommunications Access

**Revenue Program (TARP)** — MLA-MEMO supports the TARP program clusters request for funding for FY2001 authorized at the same level as the first year of the biennium. Funding for the second year must be authorized at a level comparable to the first year in order for schools to maintain current levels of Internet access and video connectivity. The Biennial-funding levels for TARP should be established at a level comparable to higher education which is 90% of actual costs for video connectivity, including system and bandwidth upgrades and new sites' one-time and continuing costs.

**Adult Basic Education Funding** — MLA-MEMO supports ongoing funding in each year of the biennium for Adult Basic Education Innovative Grants. The Minnesota Library community supports this initiative and will work cooperatively with the Minnesota ABE community in reach-

ing new immigrant populations and establishing programs that meet literacy and lifelong learning needs.

**MINITEX** — MLA-MEMO supports an annual appropriation of \$1,800,000 in FY2002 and \$1,725,000 in FY2003 to respond to the increased demands for items exchanged or shared by academic and state government libraries. This includes funds to purchase equipment and software to expand electronic delivery of materials and to license additional online resources in the science and technology fields.

*The Minnesota Library Association and Minnesota Educational Media Organization are statewide organizations representing all types of libraries and school media centers. Library Staffs, Local Trustees, Friends of the Library, library school students, and other interested supporters strive through their membership to improve library/media services and resources. The two organizations serve the interests of their members by facilitating educational opportunities, supporting strong ethical standards, providing legislative assistance, and fostering connections among the library community and various constituencies.*

### **Minnesota Educational Media Organization**

331 Wedgewood Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55411  
612-546-6214

### **Minnesota Library Association**

1619 Dayton Ave., Suite 314  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-641-0982

