



Libraries Strengthen Minnesota

Legislative Platform 2007

Minnesota Library Association • Minnesota Educational Media Organization

- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$5,000,000 for Regional Public Library Basic System Support** for a total annual appropriation of \$13,570,000. This funding will maintain current service levels and will also support increased costs for delivery of library materials between libraries which has increased significantly because of direct requests utilizing the MnLINK Gateway. There has not been a significant funding increase for RLBSS since 1992.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$1.1 million for Regional Library Telecommunication Aid** bringing the total annual appropriation to \$2.3 million. This funding will be used to increase bandwidth at each library to a minimum of T-1 or 1.544 Mbps capacity. Public libraries in Minnesota need this level in order to run the systems used to search catalogs, checkout materials and connect to the MnLINK Gateway as well as for Internet access.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks a \$5,000,000 annual increase for K-12 school telecommunication and Internet connectivity** for a total appropriation of \$8.75 million to equalize costs to districts across the state for a basic level of service. The additional funds will be used to cover existing costs that vary greatly across the state. Telecommunications and Internet access as well as access to MnLINK and ELM are integral components of K-12 instruction. K-12 schools and public libraries in Minnesota share a common statewide backbone, as well as local lines in many communities, for high-speed networking.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$397,000 for Minnesota's Multicounty Multitype Regional Library Systems** for a total annual appropriation of \$1,300,000. These systems strengthen Minnesota by providing support services for Minnesota's librarians and identifying and acting upon efficiencies and opportunities that cut across school, academic, public, and special libraries. Funding for these library systems has remained flat since 1997.
- **MLA/MEMO supports an annual increase of \$1,700,000 in the MINITEX budget** for the upcoming biennium for a total annual appropriation of \$6,481,000. MINITEX seeks additional funding to: meet the increased demand and costs for resource sharing and courier delivery services; increase access to scholarly content for Minnesota's higher education students and faculty; license additional databases for the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM); meet growing demand for MnLINK Gateway services; and expand access to digitized content through the Minnesota Digital Library.
- **MLA/MEMO supports the Get Minnesota Ready For K! initiative.**
- **MLA/MEMO supports the formation and funding of the Broadband Minnesota Initiative** as proposed by the Office of Enterprise Technology, Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Regional Telecommunications Coordinators. This backbone network among educational and other governmental entities would ensure a high and equitable quality of service, interregional operability, and potential cost savings for its users.
- **MLA/MEMO supports legislation allowing local school districts to levy up to \$200 per student** without voter approval to fund the equitable delivery of technology and library media programs to all students.
- **MLA/MEMO supports legislation requiring the regular services of a certified school library media specialist** who can build age and developmentally appropriate material collections, teach information literacy and technology skills, and promote voluntary free reading for all students.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks a mandate from the legislature that the information and technology skills** required by the 2006 legislature be assessed and reported by all districts.