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NORTH DAKOTA REPORT  
MPLA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2003

**CANOE KUDOS-** North Dakota Library Association has a new vehicle for recognizing individuals who have shown support or done something for libraries or for those who have done a wonderful job making your day at the library. Any member of NDLA can honor a deserving individual by submitting a nomination form along with a \$10.00 donation to the Professional Development Grants Fund. NDLA will present the honoree with a Canoe Kudos pin, and if appropriate, submit a press release to the local newspaper. Canoe Kudos honorees will also be listed in North Dakota's library magazine, the Good Stuff.

**MLS PROGRAM BEGINS-** Twenty-one students from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Winnipeg are now working toward their Master of Library Science (MLS) degree thanks to a program offered by the School of Library Management (SLIM), Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Classes began September 6 at the Fargo Public Library with the use of interactive technology and visiting instructors. Students are expected to graduate from the program in May 2005. Coordinator Char Myhre says the program is going very well. "It is a real benefit for the students to be able to do a program such as this and integrate it into their lives, while still working if they choose to." She says this will also greatly benefit libraries because it will increase the number of professionals in the library field in North Dakota.

**NEW SOFTWARE FOR 56 LIBRARIES -** The Online Dakota Information Network is completing the evaluation and selection process for new library software and hardware to support the 56 libraries in the ODIN consortium. ODIN will be replacing the current PALS software and Unysis hardware. The PALS software has served the ODIN consortium for over ten years, but must be replaced because maintenance support for the software is being phased out over the next few years. A year ago a steering committee was appointed to create an evaluation process for selection of a new system and give recommendations.

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONNECT TO StageNet-** Twenty-nine public libraries now have high-speed Internet access through the North Dakota network. The libraries are connected to the Statewide Technology Access for Government and Education (StageNet). Connections are provided using a T1 line or a DSL line. The libraries were connected to StageNet in September and early October. Funding to connect public libraries to StageNet is provided through E-rate funds and legislative appropriations to the North Dakota Information Technology Department (ITD). Tim Paulson, state telecommunications analyst, says libraries that opted for StageNet will see many advantages including videoconferencing. "This connection is the first step to a statewide library consortium to support both small and larger libraries." The purpose of StageNet is to provide accessible Internet connection to the citizens of North Dakota. It will also benefit communities with economic development as well as providing substantial cost savings to participating public libraries.

**SACAGAWEA-** North Dakota State Library is partnering with the Department of Commerce-Tourism Division and the Interpretive Center in Washburn, North Dakota at the Pavilion of States event in Washington, D.C. Two representatives from North Dakota attended the event to promote the importance of reading by children. Each state featured a children's book character that depicts their state. North Dakota's featured character is Sacagawea. A booth was set up in the U.S. Capitol Mall featuring brochures, books, and other material about North Dakota. This event was sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

**VIDEO PROMOTES NORTH DAKOTA-** NDSL has joined libraries from all fifty states in a public education campaign called @your library, sponsored by ALA. Public service announcements that promote ND libraries are a part of Library Vision 2004- a long range plan created by libraries across the state. Vision goals include facilitation of resource sharing. North Dakota's approximately 700 academic, school, public, and special libraries have kept abreast with today's technology, and currently offer citizens access to thousands of online magazines, newspapers, and reference materials.