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a monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization

## President's Message

*Gary Ganje*  
*MEMO President*

As we approach the half way mark of the school year, it is a good time to reflect and review how we are progressing on our MEMO goals. Earlier in the year, I reported on the work of the team attending the summer leadership conference. Along with updating our mission, this group identified four goals for the organization. These goals included enhanced development of the MEMO website, evaluating the midwinter conference, developing MEMO leadership, and increasing participation of the membership.

A group has been working on the web site enhancement. This group has gathered input from a number of members. So far, some of the ideas being considered include merging of the MEMO Technology SID site with the site of the parent organization. One enhancement could include an interactive section. Including features such as blogs and wikis could allow for the threading of topics. There has been quite a bit of interest in archiving information exchanged on the various memo lists. The enhanced MEMOweb may include features that make archiving manageable. There continues to be discussion on "member only" features. There is a delicate balance between providing information to get prospective members interested in the organization and providing a benefit for the dues paying users of the web site. Another feature that we are experimenting with is posting the board agendas with background information of the agenda topics. The intent of this enhancement is that we become a little "greener" in promoting electronic distribution of material, as well as, providing more information

to the general membership about the work and activity of the MEMO board. Please feel free to test drive the first attempt of the electronic agenda. It can found at <http://www.isd742.org/memo/>. We will move this to the MEMOweb as the web site development continues.

The midwinter conference will be an item of discussion at the January board meeting. This conference has been an item of discussion for the past few years. Each year, the viability of the conference is questioned. As part of this goal, members have been surveyed on location and attendance aspects of the midwinter conference. Further work will involve analyzing the information gathered and reviewing all aspects of the conference. I am confident that the board will be able to make an informed decision on this issue using the data gathered by the subgroup who have worked on this goal. *(continued on p2)*

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Parts of the leadership development goal will be addressed at the upcoming summer leadership conference. The Library 2.0 aspect of this goal is being promoted by many of our partner members. If you have not heard about “23 Things on a Stick”, be sure to check out the information at <http://23thingsonastick.blogspot.com/>. On behalf of MEMO, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange, Metronet, North Country Library Cooperative, Northern Lights Library Network, Southcentral Minnesota Inter-Library Exchange, Southeast Library System, and Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange for partnering on this project.

The final goal is of increased participation. With this goal, I would like to ask for member input. MEMO is your organization. Your organization will become stronger and stronger with every member that becomes an active participant. If you have an idea on how MEMO could better serve your needs, please take a minute to send me your idea. A number of you have contacted me throughout the year. The ideas that have been brought forward have been great. I can be contacted at [gary.ganje@isd742.org](mailto:gary.ganje@isd742.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

### MEMO Calendar

February 15	Registration deadline for <i>23 Things On a Stick</i> ( <a href="http://23thingsonastick.blogspot.com">http://23thingsonastick.blogspot.com</a> )
April 12	MEMO Board meeting – St Cloud
April 16	Completion date for <i>23 Things On a Stick</i>
October 2-4	Fall Conference – St. Louis Park

### Nominations open for Pres-elect and Secretary of MEMO

Do you know someone who would be outstanding in one of these positions? Are you interested in a more active roll in MEMO? Consider nominating yourself or another.

President-elect is a position that grows. The first year, you are President-elect and your responsibilities include review of the by-laws and putting together the summer leadership conference. The second year, you are President and conduct the five board meetings. The third year, you reside as Past-president and are in charge of nominations. Having a partner and being co-president-elects is also a possibility.

Secretary is a multi-year position as well. The secretary is in charge of taking minutes for all meetings including the general membership meeting at the fall conference.

More information can be attained by going to [www.memoweb.org](http://www.memoweb.org)

If you are interested in a position or you wish to nominate someone, contact Gina Light, [gmlight@chaska.net](mailto:gmlight@chaska.net)

# Reflections of a Past-President

Dr. Gina Light

Stephen Krashen is Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Southern California. From reading his articles I find him knowledgeable in language acquisition and reading literacy. But I feel closest to him for his love of libraries. I want to share with you some of his ideas and I sincerely hope these give you food for thought.

- Krashen strongly disagrees with the statement that we are reading less.
  - Teenagers might not read books, but they read about an hour using magazines, newspapers, and the Internet as sources.
  - College students continue to read quite a bit and include more books in their reading selections than high school students.
  - National reading scores for 17 year olds has not been declining.
  - Literacy has not declined. (Krashen, 2007)
- He writes spending 9 million dollars on the *The Big Read*, a book of the month club is a bad idea for promoting reading
  - The real problem is lack of access to books for children in poverty
  - The books NEA chose are not the ones adolescents find relevant and fun (my thought is to give the 9 million dollars to libraries) (Krashen, 2006)
- Using Accelerated Reader does not make an impact on students.
  - Comparing two groups where one used AR and one did not. The group not using AR actually had marginally higher scores on standardized reading tests.
  - Giving rewards for reading, which is natural, inhibits subsequent reading.
  - Having access to book and time devoted to reading is what is important. (Krashen, 2003)
- He considers using the Lexile Framework is not necessary and potentially harmful.
  - Readers determine whether text is comprehensible and interesting
  - “We need not be concerned with carefully matching a student’s level for free reading, and need not be concerned with accurately monitoring the increasing difficulty level as the child reads more and improves” (Krashen, 2001, p. 25).
  - Using the Lexile Framework limits a child’s free choice of books. (Krashen, 2001)
- Additionally, Stephen Krashen has done much research on Sustained Silent Reading. Here are some of the results
  - SSR students do better in reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary
  - Students prefer SSR to regular instruction
  - SSR works for languages other than English
  - Reluctant readers usually have less access to books
  - School libraries are effective in encouraging students to read
  - School libraries do not have enough books that students want to read. (Krashen, n.d.)

I presented only a small portion of his works, articles, and handouts. Please visit his site at <http://sdkrashen.com> to get more information. His articles have really started me to reflect on reading, what I should be ordering, how can I give more access to students, and how can I support my teachers.

## References

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## Notes: Technology and Commercial Special Interest Divisions

### Tech SID

**November:** discussed changes in television transmission, report on BOT taskforce, report on the legislative technology taskforce, MDE report, cooperative purchasing report, discussed joint meetings with telecom coordinators, and discussed data retention policies.

**December :** COSN presentation , online testing update (site readiness survey), and MDE report.

**January:** ERATE, E2T2, Internet2, 23 Things on a Stick, legislative, technology taskforce, capital aid survey, update from the telecom regions, and video streaming.

### Literature SID

We are looking forward with great excitement to the MEMO Forum. Here are some of the features we hope to have :

1. A section for Book Clubs. We see the possibility of eventually having several books going at once with a profession choice, a YA book, a children's book, and an adult book with each having topic book having several threads. Typical threads would be the current chapter discussion, support/enrichment material, and teaching resources for the particular title.

2. We hope to have an archive of previously read books and links to the data that has enduring value to teaching, or professional development.

3. We would like to have a place to share new resources and a sort of database (not exactly the word, but for lack of...) of ideas, critiques, evaluations and recommendations for everything literature related. An example might be the Teaching Books, or Culture Grams database: its value: Enrichment "quotient" vs. cost., or Librarything (which, by the way is a very cool site! Here is mine - I use of for keeping track of books I've read this year and "If you like this one, you might also like...

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MSLMC>

## Minitex Tech Day with Teachers

*Kristen Mastel*

I now understand why being a teacher is the number one vocal strain occupation. On January 10, Kathleen Roy, Library Director for Cretin-Derham Hall, invited me to co-present with her on the ELM databases during their January Tech Day. Once a month, teachers and staff are encouraged to attend Tech Day presentations on a variety of topics during their prep time. This meant delivering a 50-minute ELM overview with hands-on time during eight periods and a bonus session after school for those that could not attend.

After about period three, I would catch myself asking the group if I had already mentioned a tip or trick on how to use the databases. Luckily for me, Kathleen would jump in and describe how she approached ELM with the students and shared how the ELM databases tie into the supplemental databases she purchased that are discipline specific. After meeting and talking to forty-six teachers from every discipline, ranging from religion to Spanish (over five teachers from that discipline came) to math, the last bell rang to dismiss the students for the day; over forty of them swarmed the library to use the computers, work on group projects at the study tables, or relax on the couches.

One lone teacher, who had stayed up the entire night before during

an overnight retreat with students, walked into the library to learn about ELM since she couldn't attend during her prep time.

It was a wonderful day full of eager teachers and a small glimpse of the exhausting routine each has during the school year. Thank you, Kathleen and Cretin-Derham Hall teachers and staff, for being an excellent host, attentive scholars, and making a conscious effort to tie the media center into every aspect of the curriculum during my visit.



## **MEMO Public Relations Update** **January 2008**

The MEMO public relations committee is concentrating its attention this school year on the teachers and on the elementary and secondary principals.

Five MEMO members generously offered to help in our MEMO booth at Education Minnesota on Thursday, October 18, at the St. Paul RiverCentre! Our mission: to let teachers know that media specialists are significant partners with them in boosting student achievement. A handout addressing that stance was developed for this event. MEMO participants were: Dawn Nelson, Dave Henning, Kelly Sharkey, Michael Quady and Tori Jensen.

At the TIES conference in early December, several MEMO members took their turn with Mary Mehsikomer in the MDE booth. On display were the Information and Technology Literacy Standards developed by MEMO that are now a state standard for embedding in the curricular areas as they come up for review.

Events that are coming up are the MASSP (MN Association of Secondary School Principals) conference at the Marriott City Center in downtown Minneapolis in late January and the MESPA (MN Elementary School Principals Association) conference at the Sheraton Bloomington in early February. Our mission: to let administrators know that a strong school library media program is critical for boosting student achievement. A handout just for administrators was developed for these conferences. A \$10 discount coupon for the 2008 MEMO Fall Conference in St. Louis Park will be given to administrators who stop by the MEMO booth, so be sure to let your building principal know that you would like that discount coupon!

Remember that even as MEMO members are representing you at these professional conferences, you must at your own building and in your own district advocate for your school library media program.

## **23 Things On a Stick**

Have you ever thought, "Gosh, I wish I had time to learn more about Flickr, wikis, or (enter your Web 2.0 tool here)?" Well, this is your chance to take the time to focus on your personal and professional development around Web 2.0 tools. It's fun to explore these tools and figure out ways to use them in the library, with your personal Web sites, or in other ways.

23 Things On a Stick is the Minnesota twist on the Library Learning 2.0 program developed by Helene Blowers at the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenberg County and adopted or adapted by many other libraries and organizations since then. 23 Things On a Stick was developed by the seven multitype multicounty library systems as part of the staff development the multitypes offer in their regions.. . . .

to continue learning visit the 23 things Blog

. . . .  
<http://23thingsonastick.blogspot.com/>



MT News will be published in March.  
Send content to:

Marc Johnson  
[mjohnson@stfrancis.k12.mn.us](mailto:mjohnson@stfrancis.k12.mn.us)

1. Recognizing that collaboration with teachers to boost student achievement is a key role for school library media specialists, what could that collaboration look like at each level?

- Attend grade level/dept meetings
- Find/pull curriculum materials
- Teach a unit: evaluating websites, etc.
- Booktalks
- Powerpoint/Word instruction
- Team teaching
- Maud Hart Lovelace activities
- Accelerated Reader
- Develop materials
- Find materials to support curriculum
- Story-telling/read-alouds
- Arrange author visits
- Host book fairs
- Assist staff with embedding standards
- Video projects
- Purchase professional/grade appropriate periodicals

2. How can the school library media specialist help to enhance the value of Internet-based resources?

- WebQuests/web links
- Internet safety
- Evaluate curriculum online resources
- Website support
- Instructions on using online resources
- Virtual media center
- Internet ethics
- Internet etiquette
- Provide online databases

3. How can a school library media specialist assist with the staff development in a school?

- Teacher training
- Order free materials
- Email resource information
- Organize websites
- Bring back ideas/resources from conferences
- Communicate MDE info
- Make cross curriculum connection

4. If your school doesn't have a school library media specialist, what can you do?

- Collaborate with other teachers to talk to your administrator
- Tell your administrator what you could do more effectively with your students if you had the support of a strong school library media program
- Use the information about Effective School Library Media Programs found on the MEMO website as your talking points when you meet with your administration  
<http://www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/linkseffectivesImp.htm>

5. If your school library media program doesn't look like this, what can you do?

- Initiate a relationship with your school library media staff
- Start with small requests (e.g. ask them to order materials to support your curriculum)
- Express your appreciation for their assistance
- Suggest a collaboration on a teaching or research unit
- Ask the library media staff how they can assist you

## Interested in becoming a school library media specialist?

Information about Minnesota school library media education programs:

- St. Cloud State University - Center for Information Media <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/cim>
- Minnesota State University Mankato - Library Media Education Program <http://ed.mnsu.edu/ksp/lme>
- The College of St. Catherine - Department of Library and Information Science <http://minerva.stkate.edu/offices/academic/mlis.nsf/pages/homepage>
- The College of St. Scholastica - Educational Media and Technology Program <http://www.css.edu/x1365.xml>

Information about/for school library media programs:

- Minnesota Department of Education - Library Services and School Technology [http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning\\_Support/Library\\_Services/index.html](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Library_Services/index.html)

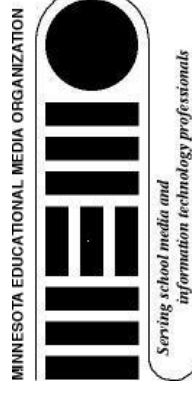
Information about Minnesota library media specialist licensing requirements:

- Minnesota State Statute - Library Media Specialist license requirements - <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8710/4550.html>

# School Library Media Specialists

## And Teachers:

*partners  
in  
boosting  
student  
achievement*



<http://www.memoweb.org>

School library media centers serve as a critical foundation for increasing student achievement in Minnesota's educational system. Studies continually show that students realize higher levels of achievement when they have school libraries that are:

- sufficiently funded
  - professionally staffed, and
  - integrated with the curriculum.
- Today's school library media centers:
- provide access to a wide variety of both print and electronic information resources for teachers and students;
  - support achievement of curriculum goals;
  - assist teachers with integration of information and technology resources with curriculum;
  - assist teachers in reaching education goals;
  - teach students to use information resources effectively, ethically, and safely.

[MN Department of Education website]

### ***Staffing and resources make a difference...***

- In Minnesota schools with above average student scores on the Grades 3, 5, and 8 reading tests, 66.8% were schools where the media specialist worked full time.
- Twice as many Minnesota schools with above average scores had full-time media specialists.
- Student reading achievement in Minnesota elementary and secondary schools is related to increases in school library media program spending.

**(For details see: Check it Out! The Results of the School Library Media Program Census: Executive Summary, 2003)**

### ***Key research findings...***

- Schools with stronger school library programs average 10-20% higher test scores
- Strong correlations exist between academic achievement

(represented by scores on standards-based state tests of reading/language arts skills) and library staffing levels, librarian activities, collection size, technology integration and library usage.

### ***Research that backs it up....***

Since 2000, Keith Curry Lance has been compiling data summarizing the impact of school library media programs on student achievement. These research studies represent more than 1,000,000 students in 4,000 plus schools in at least 16 states.

**(For additional information visit: [www.lrs.org/impact.asp](http://www.lrs.org/impact.asp))**

### ***MN Rule 8710.4550 Library Media Specialists Licensure:***

**"Scope of practice.** A library media specialist is authorized to provide to students in kindergarten through grade 12 instruction that is designed to provide information skills instruction, to collaborate and consult with other classroom teachers for the purpose of integrating information skills and technology tools with content teaching, and to administer media center operations, programming, and resources."

Licensure coursework addresses the following:

- school curriculum across grade levels and disciplines;
- ability to plan and conduct a sequential integrated program of instruction in the use of information;
- reference and online services;
- educational media leadership;
- educational resources for children and young adults;
- collaboration with teachers to meet student learning goals;
- student and staff development that use research technologies elementary and secondary pedagogy; and
- early and ongoing clinical experiences with pre-K to 12 students within a range of educational programming models.

For the entire rule with a complete listing of the subject matter standards see: <http://www.revisor.mn.us/arule/8710/4550.html>

## **Resources for Administrators on the MEMO website - <http://www.memoweb.org>**

### **Standards for Information and Technology Literacy**

The standards document describes the processes and specific skills a learner must understand and practice in order to meet a minimum level of information literacy. These are divided into four general areas: the research process, technology use, reading and media literacy, and the responsible use of technology and information. These are the standards that are being embedded in the content areas as they come up for revision.

### **Minnesota Standards for Effective School Library Media Programs and Principals Checklist**

These standards provide the best practices for Minnesota school library media programs and help library media specialists and administrators take a look at how their programs are doing.

### **Minnesota Coalition For Intellectual Freedom**

This site provides links to recommended selection and evaluation policies, resources in the event of a book challenge, and other resources dealing with intellectual freedom.

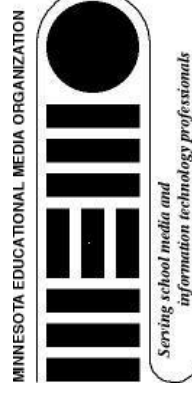
### **Educators' Website for Information Technology**

### **Links to School Library Media Resources at the Minnesota Department of Education**

# **School Library Media Specialists**

*partners  
in  
boosting  
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**Minnesota Educational Media Organization**  
**<http://www.memoweb.org>**



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Submissions in MS word processing are particularly welcome.

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*Serving school media and information technology professionals*

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