

## Metronet Strategic Plan 2004-06

### METRONET's Mission

METRONET serves libraries of all types by leveraging existing library strengths and resources to build capacity to achieve more collectively than could be attained independently.

### METRONET's Vision

METRONET will be the preferred communications nexus for libraries in the metropolitan area, providing opportunities for collaboration, staff development, and innovation.

### METRONET's Values

METRONET...

- Places high priority on the effective use of the full range of information and telecommunication technologies;
- Respects the goals, aspirations and service cultures of the libraries it serves;
- Believes that collaboration among libraries is essential to high quality customer service;
- Believes that barriers to library service and information access should be eliminated to the extent possible.

### To achieve its mission, METRONET

1. Provides information to its community by means of a robust, user-friendly website, the publication of a quarterly newsletter, MetroBriefs, and by means of presentations at member libraries as well as at professional meetings and conferences.

2. In collaboration with other appropriate organizations, sponsors or produces high quality, relevant staff training and professional development programs.

3. Consults with and advises legislators, government officials, library boards and other policy makers on library funding and access issues.

4. Identifies service gaps as well as barriers to accessing library, information and media services.

5. In cooperation with other agencies, advocates for the information poor and those unserved by libraries.

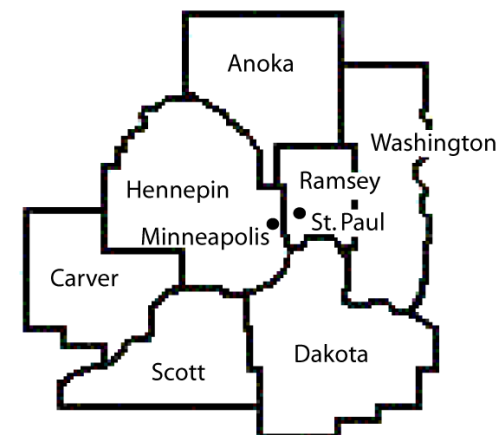
6. As a catalyst for change, works to "de-silo" library services and promote best practices, economies of scale, and fiscal responsibility.

7. Organizes temporary, ad hoc committees of interest to address specific library issues or problems as they arise.

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**METRONET**  
linking libraries  
school • public • special • academic



**Serving all types of libraries in  
the seven-county metro area**

[www.metronet.lib.mn.us](http://www.metronet.lib.mn.us)

# Metronet



## **What is Metronet?**

Metronet is one of seven multi-county, multitype library systems created by the Legislature in 1979. Funding is provided through the Minnesota Department of Education's State Library Services and School Technology division.

Metronet serves libraries of all types—school, public, college and university, and special and corporate—in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.

## **What does Metronet do?**

State law defines Metronet's program areas: long-range planning, communications, resource sharing, database development or acquisition, and service delivery. Metronet's strategic plan outlines its current priorities for member libraries.

## **How do I join Metronet? Does it cost?**

All metro-area libraries are eligible to be members of Metronet. Contact [info@metronet.lib.mn.us](mailto:info@metronet.lib.mn.us) to receive a membership application. There is no cost to belong to Metronet.

## **What are some ongoing Metronet projects and services?**

- Metronet website
- A member newsletter (MetroBriefs)
- Offering educational and networking opportunities known as Eye Openers and Wind Downs
- Partners in offering a variety of continuing education programs
- Clearinghouse for information about the region's libraries and services.
- Distribution of the Raising Readers publication
- Library advocacy
- Promotion of greater collaboration and service innovation

## **What are some of Metronet's projects?**

- Eye Openers and Wind Downs — Opportunities for library staff to meet for networking and professional development. Each event lasts approximately one hour and generally features a guest speaker. Topics have included disaster planning, a presentation and tour of the Elmer Andersen Horticultural Library at the U of M Arboretum, an insider's tour of the stacks of the Minnesota History Center, copyright, library legislation report, issues facing librarians, and more!

- Authors and Illustrators web site — Provides information about authors and illustrators of children's books. The site was designed for teachers and librarians and includes contact information to invite local authors or illustrators to their schools. <http://www.metronet.lib.mn.us/present/index.cfm>
- School Media Center Census — In 2002, Metronet conducted a census to gather baseline data about the current state of Minnesota's school library media centers. In 2004 Metronet facilitated a follow-up census to determine what changes had occurred in the two years. The final report, *Check It Out!*, is available for both 2002 and 2004 in print (contact the office) and online at the Metronet website.
- Exemplary Librarians — A DVD featuring six Twin Cities librarians sharing why they love their jobs, how their careers have changed, and more. Also includes a panel discussion.

