

# METROBRIEFS

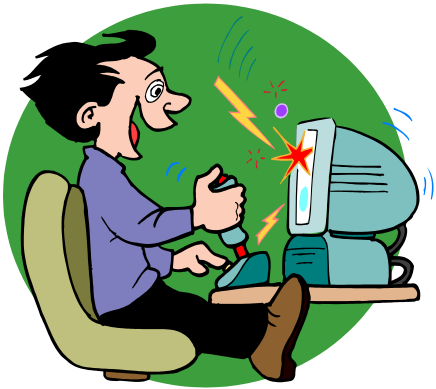
Fall/Winter 2005

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## Internet Gaming Workshop – December 12

On Monday, December 12, 2005, METRONET will host a presentation on Internet Gaming at the Roseville Public Library. Kurt Squire and Constance Steinkuehler are with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and are among the leading researchers on this cultural phenomenon. They have made presentations of their findings at meetings of the American Library Association and the OCLC Members Council. Their presentation at the Roseville Library will include not only the results of their research but also a demonstration of Internet games.



Why should this phenomenon be of interest to librarians? One reason is that Internet Gamers – the “net generation” – and Millennials (those graduating from high school in 2000 or later) approach life and learning differently, especially when contrasted with Baby Boomers and Generation X. Researchers have found that some of the change in learning styles might be linked to video game playing. According to Marc Prensky, college graduates today have spent more than twice as many hours playing video games as they have reading. The Pew Internet and American Life Project found that 85 percent of all undergraduates grew up with a computer in their home, which for three out of four, became their most important research tool throughout high school.

For these reasons, METRONET believes that librarians of all types need to have a better understanding of the ways in which Gamers search for information and of their expectations with respect to library services. Our program on December 12 begins at 8:30 a.m. and should conclude at noon. Seating is limited, so it is important to let us know if you plan to attend. Please RSVP to [info@metronet.lib.mn.us](mailto:info@metronet.lib.mn.us).

## Library Literature Database

Virtually all librarians are familiar with the bound volumes of HW Wilson’s Library Literature. But for the last several years, HW Wilson has made available an online version that includes full-text articles back to 1997. However, many librarians in the metro area do not have access to this important database.

With the wonderful assistance of MINITEX, METRONET has arranged to provide access to this database for librarians in METRONET’s service area for a trial period which ends on November 25. Once the trial is over, MINITEX will report on the number of individual subscribers and this will determine how much it will cost METRONET to provide access for 2006. If the price is “right,” METRONET will subscribe to the database on behalf of those librarians who registered during the trial period -- at no cost to database users. Additional information on registering to access the Library Literature & Information Science database may be found at [www.metronet.lib.mn.us](http://www.metronet.lib.mn.us). Because professional development and the continuing education of librarians and media specialists are such important METRONET services, METRONET hopes to assist librarians in keeping up with the literature and latest developments in our rapidly changing profession by making this database accessible. We will announce our decision whether to subscribe or not in December.

## Information Literacy

Thanks to the work of the MEMO/MLA Information Literacy Collaborative, four recommended standards for information and technology literacy have been adopted by librarians in Minnesota. While the standards have not yet been endorsed by the Minnesota Department of Education, we are hopeful that this will happen within the next few years. As one close observer of state government stated, because school districts are presently suffering from standards fatigue, this is not the time to seek approval for another set of standards.



Information and technology literacy is a critical skill, one that is essential to life-long learning. It begins with curiosity about how the world works. It involves knowing how to find, evaluate and use information from a variety of sources. It means knowing what questions to ask, but it also involves communicating what is learned using a variety of media.

METRONET was pleased to assist MEMO and MLA by underwriting the cost of printing the information literacy standards in an attractive brochure. Minnesota's Multitype Library Systems – the Southeast Library System, Northern Lights Library Network, North Country Library Cooperative, South-central Minnesota Inter Library Exchange, Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange, Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange, and METRONET – are taking the lead in distributing the brochures to member libraries. Anyone wishing to have additional copies should contact METRONET ([info@metronet.lib.mn.us](mailto:info@metronet.lib.mn.us)).

## METRONET Wind Downs

It has long been a METRONET tradition to host wind-downs and eye-openers for area librarians and media specialists. Wind Downs typically take place toward the end of the workday (4:00-5:00 p.m.), while Eye-Openers are scheduled early in the morning (7:30-8:30 a.m.). We have found, however, that attendance is higher at Wind Downs, so we have begun to schedule more events at this time period. It should also be noted that METRONET respects the time of its members and so all Wind Downs and Eye Openers do not extend beyond the allotted 60 minutes.

Some recent programs that we offered were:

- Marvin Anderson, Executive Director of Everybody Wins! Minnesota, and Archie Givens, President of the Givens Foundation on African American Literature and Life, spoke on the importance of children reading at an early age and how reading can help children identify role models for character formation. Similarly, minority children need to be exposed to literature written by African Americans, Spanish Americans and other minority group authors. Both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Givens were eloquent in expressing the importance of books and reading to the lives of children, and why literature is a critical component of their cultural heritage.

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- Joyce Hommel, Director of MnLink, gave a brilliant overview of the problems and promise of the MnLink system. She reported on the important technical improvements to the system and its amazing acceptance by library users across Minnesota. The volume of use is even more impressive when one considers that MnLink has not been widely advertised and is not easily located on some library websites.
- Richard Pfeifer, Director of the Hmong Cultural Center and Library, welcomed librarians to his library on University Avenue in St. Paul and provided a standing-room audience with an overview of the library, its services and users. Dr. Pfeifer reported that the library is being visited by students and researchers from across the country and houses one of the largest collections of Hmong resources in the U.S. The library also produces an annual bibliography of Hmong literature and publishes a scholarly journal that Dr. Pfeifer edits.
- Tom Eland, librarian and faculty member at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College, presented a very stimulating demonstration of the innovative information literacy curriculum that he has established at MCTC. His is one of the few programs where information literacy courses carry academic credit and are required by the college! Visit his website at [www.minneapolis.edu/library/courses/infostudies.htm](http://www.minneapolis.edu/library/courses/infostudies.htm) to get a complete picture of the MCTC program. While Professor Eland's presentation was held to 60 minutes, he stayed for an additional hour to answer questions from those attending. METRONET is very grateful to Keith Johnson and John Parker of Bloomington's Kennedy High School for providing their state-of-the-art library media center for Tom Eland's presentation.

So why provide this summary of past programs? Because they demonstrate the talent and expertise of local librarians and community leaders. So if you happened to miss attending any one of these sessions, now is the time to resolve to place METRONET Wind Downs high on your professional development list!

## Libraries and WorkForce Centers

On September 28, METRONET sponsored a program at the Roseville Public Library featuring Curt Sammann of the Minnesota WorkForce Centers. Some 10-12 librarians from libraries in the metro area attended and engaged Mr. Sammann in a very productive discussion of how libraries and WorkForce Centers might work together more effectively in assisting job seekers in finding employment, changing careers, improving interview skills, etc. Mr. Sammann distributed copies of a book titled Creative Job Search (ISBN 0-9670505-6-1) which is produced by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. This is an excellent book, copies of which should be available in every public library in Minnesota. If there is interest in METRONET scheduling another session with Mr. Sammann on this topic, please let us know.



Happy  
Holidays



from  
Metronet



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## Upcoming Winter 2005 Events

Internet Gaming workshop (Roseville, MN) – December 12

RSVP to [info@metronet.lib.mn.us](mailto:info@metronet.lib.mn.us) and watch the METRONET website for more information

MEMO Midwinter Conference (Alexandria, MN) – January 29-30

Details and registration information available at [www.memoweb.org](http://www.memoweb.org) soon!

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