Metronet
Strategic Plan FY 2017-2018

In creating the strategic plan for Metronet, the Director reviewed the outcomes of Metronet's programs from 2011 to 2016 (attendance, feedback from program attendees, reactions from Board members, website utilization, and comments from other professional organizations such as ITEM). Metronet has compared its initiatives with those of the other multitype systems, with MELSA programs, and with the continuing education opportunities provided by Minitex. The evaluative efforts described above provide a sound foundation for this edition of Metronet's strategic plan.

The plan will receive a greater revision based on member input during FY17.

Vision
Metronet will be the major agency for connecting libraries of all types in the metropolitan area by emphasizing their commonalities, synchronicity of values, service quality, innovation, and best practices.

Mission
Metronet serves libraries of all types in the metropolitan area by leveraging existing library strengths and resources to build capacity so as to achieve more collectively than could be attained independently.

Values
Metronet
- places high priority on the effective use of the full range of information, computing, and telecommunication technologies;
- respects the goals, aspirations and service cultures of the libraries it serves;
- believes that collaboration among libraries is essential to the stewardship of public funds and to the delivery of quality customer service;
- believes that barriers to library service and information access should be eliminated to the extent possible.

This plan builds on the work that Metronet has been doing that focuses on information literacy, connecting library media specialists and teachers to a wide range of resources, conducting online continuing education, improving communication among libraries, and providing networking opportunities for all library staff through online and face-to-face opportunities.

Goals FY 2017-2018
Metronet's goals must generally align with the legislation that created Minnesota's multicounty multitype library systems (134.351 Multicounty, Multitype Library Systems). This legislation states that Metronet's purpose should lead to programs in most of the following areas: resource sharing, planning for cooperative programs, delivery services and programs, database development or purchase, and improved communication among libraries. Within these parameters, Metronet has defined its role in the Twin Cities library community as:
- Building Community

- Creating Connections
- Improving Communication

All of Metronet's goals and programs work to advance one or more of those roles.
In an effort to maximize its resources to reach as many people as possible, the Board is strategic in planning and conducting its work. Programs and initiatives fall into one of three categories: cooperation, coordination, or collaboration. Each of these categories and its characteristics are listed below:

Cooperation
- Short-term
- Lower intensity for resources
- Little risk
- Limited planning effort
- Simple outcomes

Coordination
- Longer-term
- Focus on specific program or effort
- More detailed planning
- May have more players
- Open communication necessary
- More directed outcomes

Collaboration
- Long-term
- Multiple players
- Formal relationships & responsibilities
- Commitment to common goals
- Comprehensive planning
- Communication more formal
- Shared resources—money, time, other assets
- Specific, measurable outcomes

By evaluating its work it this context, Metronet is able to allocate resources—time, money, staff—to maximum benefit for the best results.

Goals for FY 2017
These are Metronet's goals delineated within the legislative requirements and Metronet's defined role in the Twin Cities.

Goal 1. Resource Sharing
Metronet interprets resource sharing to include the sharing of knowledge and information that improves one's ability to perform their duties. Metronet's strength is its staff. The Board has developed a strong, efficient staff that is able to produce vibrant and successful programming with the limited resources available. Metronet relies on developing viable partnerships in order to provide its services to as broad an audience as possible. The Director will continue to develop these partnerships with school districts, state agencies, libraries, and others to leverage Metronet's ability to accomplish its goals and objectives.

Metronet Programs that fall under **Resource Sharing goal** include:
- Metronet Information Literacy Initiative (MILI)
- Continuing Education, similar to 23 Mobile Things
- Teen Lit Con

- Joint Conference Presentations
- Subscriptions to online services shared with partners (e.g., SurveyMonkey, Constant Contact)

Metronet Information Literacy Initiative (MILI)
Metronet has developed a 10-month training curriculum that focuses on helping teachers and media specialists collaborate in teaching information literacy and research skills in the classroom and media center. In recent years, the Metronet Information Literacy Initiative has been a collaborative program with Minneapolis Public Schools and St Paul Public Schools. In addition, Metronet connects academic and public librarians to the media specialists and teachers so they are aware of the depth of resources, both in content and personnel, which are available to them and their students. The Metronet Board has made a commitment to promote and encourage MILI participation as widely as possible, given the resources, so that teaching information literacy skills are included in as many classrooms as possible. There are currently two levels of the program, one for K-5 teacher and media specialists and one for teachers and media specialists who teach grades 6-12. In FY2017, Metronet will offer MILI as part of Minneapolis Public Schools ProPay 123 for teachers and media specialists.

Teen Lit Con
Teen Lit Con is an event to celebrate teen literature, promote reading and writing, and to create a community of readers by connecting teens and authors. MELSA is the primary sponsor with funding from the Legacy Amendment. Metronet works with MELSA and its other partners to produce the event. Metronet's key's role is to promote the event to media specialists, teachers, and school districts to encourage attendance. Metronet also manages the technology, including creating the web site and running the Twitter account @teenlitcon. Metronet handles the CEUs available to media specialists and teachers who participate. Metronet manages the bus scholarship program than brings students from around the metro to Teen Lit Con. As a full partner, Metronet is able to use its staff to ensure that the event runs smoothly and reaches those who are the potential audience for the event. The inaugural event was held in May 2014. Teen Lit Con was also offer in 2015 & 2016 Planning is underway for 2017.

Meetup or Other Programs around bridging school librarians and academic librarians.
One of the most popular parts of MILI is the academic librarian panel that happens in the first days of training for MILI. Academic librarians from various Twin Cities institutions are invited to present their thoughts on what students need to know to succeed in college research, expectations for first-year college research, and more. The MILI participants consistently rate this as a highlight of the two early training days. As a result of this, Metronet plans to meet with a committee of school and academic librarians to determine the best way to connect them beyond a one-off panel. In addition, State Library Services has expressed interest in a statewide meetup around college & career readiness that fits into this initiative to connect school & academic librarians—public, too, but with more focus on the bridge between academic institutions.

Subscriptions to online services
Metronet maintains subscriptions to Constant Contact e-newsletter service and SurveyMonkey for its work on all projects. It allows partners (MELSA, ITEM, other multitypes, etc.) to use the subscription for their work to maximize the investment.

2. Planning for Cooperative Programs

Metronet has developed on-going partnerships with organizations within and beyond the library community in order to create and implement programming that impacts a broad library and education audience. Partnerships currently in place include:

Partner	Projects
Minnesota Multitype Library Systems	Continuing Education Events Communication website Events at professional conferences
MELSA	MetroBriefs Teen Lit Con Intro to Minnesota Libraries worskshop Continuing Education events OLLI Class
Minneapolis Public Schools	MILI ProPay123 Specific workshop training events
St Paul Public Schools	MILI
Other School Districts	Specific workshop training events
Minitex	ELM training & promotion MILI
Individual public library systems	MILI Wind Downs & Appy Hours Specific workshop training events
Cooperating Libraries in Consortium	Conference planning Wind Downs MILI
ITEM	Conference presentations Networking event conference
MLA	Conference presentations Networking event conference Committee participation MLA Institute for Leadership Excellence scholarships
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute	Libraries Then & Now: How Libraries Have Evolved Class Other classes
State Library Services	College & career readiness initiatives

Metronet will build upon its experience in partnering to seek other opportunities to engage in collaborative planning with libraries and non-library organizations.

Metronet will continue to work with the other multitype systems to develop professional development programs that can be offered at multiple locations in the state or online such as *23 Mobile Things.*

3. **Delivery Services and Programs**

Metronet focuses its work in this category on the delivery of programming that impacts the ability of library staff and others to more efficiently and effectively do their jobs. This includes continuing education, professional engagement opportunities, conferences, and other forums or initiatives. Metronet's plans the following in 2015-2016.

Cooperation	Coordination	Collaboration
6 WindDown/4 Appy Hours	26 issues MetroBriefs	MILI with up to MPS
	Media Specialist Meet-ups Book Selectors Meet-up Other Meet-ups	State Library Services Public libraries
2 Networking events annually at annual conferences	3-5 Joint conference presentations	Workshops for various types of libraries
Other training opportunities	4-5 Training sessions for specific groups, e.g., library system, school, district staff development, community organization	Camp Read-a-Lot
Presentations on Metronet, MILI, iPad apps, Web 2.0 as requested	MLA & other conference sessions	STEM Day or other information literacy event with Minitex & other organizations
	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class	23 Mobile Things or other large CE undertaking
	Meet-ups—Book Selectors & others as requested	

4. **Database Development or Purchase**

Metronet has developed and maintains a database of Minnesota Authors and Illustrators and a database of web addresses of Minnesota organizations, including corporations, non-profits, schools, and libraries. Metronet will continue to maintain, update, and add to these databases.

Metronet will work closely with MELSA in planning programs that are relevant to public libraries. These include programs that promote increased cooperation between school, public, and academic libraries and/or display library resources to new audiences.

Metronet will continue to promote the use of other state-funded databases such as the Electronic Library for Minnesota and the Minnesota Digital Library.

Metronet, in collaboration with MELSA, is building a database of individual library staff in order to improve communications with end users of the programming and continuing education opportunities offered by the systems.

5. **Improved Communication Among Libraries**

Most of Metronet's programs are designed to improve communications among libraries. Metronet will continue promoting better communication among the types of libraries through its professional development programs, newsletter, website, networking and professional engagement opportunities, and any other means possible. Metronet has capitalized on its experience teaching Web 2.0 tools to library staff and others. By using these tools, including wikis, Nings, blogs, online surveys, email newsletters, & similar communication and content tools, Metronet is able to build a

broad-based library and education community. These tools make all parts of Metronet's work—resource sharing, communication, planning cooperative programs, program delivery, and database development—possible with the financial resources available.

MetroBriefs
MetroBriefs is an e-newsletter collaboration between MELSA and Metronet. It is published every other week, mailed on Monday, to over 500 library staff in the Twin Cities. The Metronet Director serves as the editor/publisher (via the Constant Contact service). She solicits input from staff at Metronet and MELSA, as well as from the library community at large. The goal is to grow the email subscription list and reach deep into the staff at libraries of all types so that all are aware and informed of library news, news about library staff, continuing education opportunities, and other information of value.

Metronet Website
The Metronet website was redesigned to reflect modern web design principles and expand its usefulness to members and others seeking information about Metronet or Minnesota libraries. The redesign increased the availability of content to members and others by displaying it in a user-friendly design. The website will be reviewed to see if it meets these goals & revised as needed.

Wind Downs
Wind Downs are informal events focused on current library topics that appeal across the board to libraries of all types. Experts are invited to present at local libraries. Academic, public, & special libraries are the most frequent hosts. Beginning in 2013, Metronet added "Appy Hours" to the Wind Down schedule. These are informal opportunities for people to meet and share apps and tips on their mobile devices.

In FY17 Metronet will conduct a survey to update the one done in 2013 to determine what topics are of most interest to members. Metronet will use these results in planning Wind Downs. Plans for FY17 Wind Downs include: Tour of Target Field with Twins Archivist, Inside the LIbrary at Downton Abbey with Tim Johnson, U of MN Special Collections, & LBGTQ library resources in the Twin Cities held at Quatrefoil Library with participation by the Tretter Collection.

Meet-Ups
Based on the success of the Book Selectors Meet-up, additional groups focused around library activities are being considered in this FY. Other groups may include job seekers, tech services, grant writers, information literacy, instruction, or other areas of interest to a broad range of library staff. Meet-ups will be planned for media specialists in various parts of the Metronet region.

Other Networking Opportunities
The multitypes develop and implement large networking events that take place during the evening of the conferences. In FY2016, ITEM collaborated with the multitypes on a Trivia Night. MLA, the multitypes, & UMD Library collaborated on an event at Glensheen Mansion, including a special peek into the Mansion's rare book collection. Future events will have a literary/library focus. In FY2016, there will be events at both MLA & ITEM.

Connecting different types of libraries around a common need is part of Metronet's mission. To that end, Metronet conducted a survey to determine interest in an Information Literacy Task Force. 43 respondents from all types of libraries showed an interest. These are the top five topics indicated for discussion:

- Tips for teaching information literacy skills
- Training in teaching information literacy skills
- Working with Faculty in teaching research skills

- Research review around what students know
- Understanding what is taught in K12 around research

6. Other

Metronet will continue to play a role in advocating for libraries of all types and encourage change and evolution in library services. To do that, Metronet will:

- Continue to offer scholarships for continuing education or other events to metro area library staff.
- Continue to raise Metronet's profile among area libraries by demonstrating Metronet's value and relevance through its programs.
- Continue to advocate for libraries with Minnesota legislators and other policy makers.
- Act as a catalyst for change, promote the adoption of best practices, implement economies of scale where possible, and advocate for innovation in library services and organization.