

Rapid Fire Reference - 30 in 60
Thursday, October 8th at 9:00 am
Minnesota Library Association 2015 Conference Presentation
RASS - Reference and Adult Services Section

Laura McDermott, Ramsey County Library

I am presenting five databases that are useful for people over 55 at various stages of aging as well as for caregivers.

- 1- www.aarp.org AARP is a basic site for the younger "older adult," those younger than 75 or so. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and is mainly a consumer information site.
- 2- www.elderweb.com ElderWeb was created by Karen Stevenson in 1994, and is one of the oldest resources on the web for information about aging and long term care.
- 3- <http://mn.gov/admin/star/> The STAR Program is Minnesota's federally-funded Assistive Technology Act program and is useful for anyone with a disability regardless of age.
- 4- www.nia.nih.gov NIH National Institute on Aging was established in 1974 and offers information for all levels of aging as well as caregiving.
- 5- www.seniorhousinginc.org Senior Housing Directory is most useful for the old old and their caregivers. Both online and print, this directory is published by Care Options Network and is mostly specific to the Twin Cities but contains a list of resources that can be useful statewide.

Kristin Harley, librarian and certified archivist, Minnesota Air National Guard Museum Library

- 1- Jane's All the World's Aircraft - annual print publication started in 1909 and published by Jane's Information Group, a British company specializing in military, aerospace, and transportation.
- 2- Hidden History blog - written by Lenny Flank, editor of Red and Black Publications and author of a number of books on science and political history. He was a regular commenter at the science blog The Panda's Thumb and the science forum After the Bar Closes, and now blogs about historic oddities, including aviation history. <https://lflank.wordpress.com/?s=aviation>
- 3- Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Archives - online finding aids to collections regarding important aviation inventions, companies, and personalities.
<https://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/finding-aids.cfm>

4- Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Archives - reading room for in-person reference:

<https://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/reference-services.cfm>

Clippings, technical manuals, biographies, and usual questions. ("I found a piece of the Hindenburg!" etc.)

5- Brigadier General Ray S. Miller Exhibit: "Eva and Ray Miller's Personal Collection of Air Guard Memorabilia, 1920-1961" - in-person and on microfilm at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum Library and at Hennepin County Library. A 64-panel multiflex display unit of the history of the Minnesota Air National Guard (the first in the nation) and its founder, Brigadier General Ray S. Miller, along with Twin Cities aviation clippings, correspondence, and documents. (Microfilm duplicated and sent to Special Collections at HCL - may not yet be in catalog. Physical display at the museum.)

Dru Frykberg, senior librarian, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development

1-MinnesotaWorks, www.minnesotaworks.net: A Minnesota job board to help job seekers find work and employers hire workers.

2-Small Business Assistance Office, <http://mn.gov/deed/sbao>: Get guidance on starting and managing a business.

3-Minnesota Trade Office, <http://mn.gov/deed/trade>: Recommend this site to your clients researching Minnesota exports and pursuing global business.

4-Made in Minnesota, <http://mn.gov/deed/madeinmn>: Shop local by finding products and supplies made in state.

5-Graduate Employment Outcomes, <http://mn.gov/deed/geo>: A reality-check tool for Minnesota students and career changers that shows how many graduates are finding jobs and at what wages.

Laura Miller, Librarian, Hennepin County Library

I will be presenting language learning resources and Minnesota historical resources. I will be focusing on resources that are free and accessible for all libraries, so for that reason I'm excluding subscription based resources such as Transparent Language Online or Mango Languages.

I will be presenting the following:

1- Duolingo www.duolingo.com Free language learning site both for native English speakers and English language learners. Take proficiency tests, advance through the skill tree, level up by earning points, and interact with other language learners through discussion forums. Immerse yourself through reading and interpreting articles.

2- Verbling www.verbling.com Watch videos of language learning classes and join language practice groups for various ability levels for free. For a fee you can also book lessons with a private tutor.

3. Get Human www.gethuman.com Get the phone numbers and/or sequences through the phone maze that will quickly get you to a human being for various organizations. Also get information on times to call, average wait times, and customer reviews.
4. Minnesota Historical Aerial Photographs Online <https://www.lib.umn.edu/apps/mhapo/> MHAPO provides access to over 121,000 digital copies of Minnesota air photos from 1920-2000. From the John Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota.
5. MNopedia <http://www.mnopedia.org> An online encyclopedia about Minnesota developed by the Minnesota Historical Society and its partners. It is a free, curated, and authoritative resource about our state. All of our articles are prepared by historians, consulting experts, professional writers, and others who have been vetted by MNHS.

Linda Dallavalle, Dakota County Library

Science Databases

1 - How Stuff Works - <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

Reliable, easy-to-understand answers and explanations of how the world actually works. Information is delivered in articles, blogs, podcasts and videos.

2 - Web Elements - <http://www.webelements.com/>

Developed and maintained by the Chemistry Department Chair at Sheffield University in the UK, this easy-to-use website has clickable symbols for the elements which has in depth information about each one. Tabs for disciplines like Biology and Geology display even more information.

3 - Science in Context - HCL and DCL database - also ELM database - Student Resources in Context - Provides a wide gamut of information and shows how it relates to wider world issues. Multi media components include audio, video and images from authoritative sources.

4 - National Geographic - <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

This site has become much more user-friendly in the past few years. It's easy to search archived magazine articles, but extended content is helpful as well. Stunning photography, content that's great for school reports and world-class writing make this site a "must-check".

5 - Google Books - <https://books.google.com/>

Even the most obscure search term is probably in a book which has been scanned into Google Books. As long there is a preview of the book, the page your search term will be readable. If the patron wants more than Google Books can display, you will know which title to request!

Sarah Hawkins, East Central Regional Library

Grab Bag! I am a library generalist. These resources come from frequent patron questions, both in person and via AskMN.

1. City Data- <http://www.city-data.com/>

Detailed profiles of all U.S. cities, created by collecting data from numerous sources. Profiles include crime rates, weather patterns, demographic and geographic data, real estate prices and sale trends, cost of living, businesses and organizations, local news, employment opportunities, and more. In addition, Top City Lists rank cities in categories, including most gay couples, most cars, shortest commute, biggest houses, best educated residents, and more.

2. Consumer Search- <http://www.consumersearch.com/>

Interactive consumer product tool. Browse by product category for: selection of the top-rated products, complete analysis of who the experts are and what they say, as well as review of important product trends and developments, and sources.

3. Convert It: <http://www.asknumbers.com/>

One-stop shop for printable conversion charts and converters. Metric, imperial, and U.S. systems. From everyday use to scientific calculators. Thousands of units, definitions, abbreviations and formulas.

4. Minnesota Help- <https://www.minnesotahelp.info/Index>

Directory of Minnesota community and social services--health care & childcare, job training, education & recreation, retirement, and disability. Find services by keyword search term, browse by topic, or search by Taxonomy Terms or agency name. Chat with and receive info from a specialist Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

5. txt4life: <http://txt4life.org/>

Suicide prevention resource for Minnesota residents. Text conversations between counselor and user for help with relationship issues, general mental health, and suicide. Free and confidential. Available 24/7. Text "Life" to 61222 to start the conversation.