



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

PROJECT/REQUEST

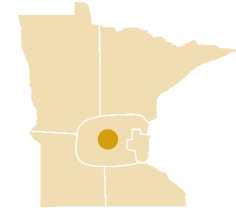
LOCATION

## St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud

Minnesota Digital Library

\$1,000,000



### Project at a Glance

- Provide Minnesotans with convenient online access to cultural records, including those found in museums, libraries, archives, government centers, schools and businesses
- Help organizations digitize their documents to make them more widely available
- Build computer capacity and develop electronic databases to enable people across the state and world to gain access to historical and cultural records

### Project Description

The Minnesota Digital Library project was developed through a collaboration between library, museum and education organizations from across Minnesota. Work began in the summer of 2001. In August 2005, the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition launched its first collection of digitized photographic images, "Minnesota Reflections" (<http://reflections.mndigital.org>). This collection features digital representations of more than 5,000 photographic images created before 1909. They were contributed to the library by more than 55 organizations.

The continuing vision of the Minnesota Digital Library is to create convenient online access to digital copies of materials from all aspects of life in Minnesota, including cultural heritage, government, the arts, the sciences, industry and leisure. The coalition particularly seeks items in small historical societies, libraries, county and township offices, and private collections. The Minnesota Digital Library is a computer-centered means of preserving valuable information and knowledge of the significant resources of Minnesota and making these resources easily accessible.

Minnesota's libraries, archives, historical societies and museums contain millions of items and add hundreds of thousands each year. They include numerous unique and valuable resources. Collectively, these collections represent the memory and heritage of the state and its people. The Minnesota Digital Library is a means of providing broad access through digitization to many of these resources while promoting preservation for the most fragile objects or those objects most subject to damage.

The target audiences for the Minnesota Digital Library



*The Minnesota Digital Library has launched its first collection, "Minnesota Reflections," with more than 5,000 images created before 1909.*

are elementary and secondary school students and teachers, college and university students and faculty, and people from all walks of life interested in exploring the rich, often inaccessible resources of the state. This project enables each audience to use the digital forms of the original items in their research, learning and leisure activities, to help them develop and shape their understanding of Minnesota.

The members of the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition Steering Committee conduct and guide the work of the library. They represent 13 organizations and include people with administrative, computing, library, collection, organization and communication talents and skills. The coalition's goal is to develop digitization projects

beyond the photographs represented in "Minnesota Reflections." Ongoing projects target historical and current documents. Future projects will add audio and video recordings and objects created in digital format, while continuing the work with images and documents.

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition established a strong foundation for this project by adopting and disseminating best practices for digitization and description, purchasing and installing servers, scanners and software to digitize objects, and providing public access to those objects. Coalition members have conducted training in digitizing and describing objects for people in museum, library and education professions.

“Minnesota Reflections,” the signature project of the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition, represents the strength of collaboration between members of different organizations. Steering committee members work together to direct and execute the project. Participants collaborate by sharing their collections and information about the original objects and their digital copies.

Most of the funding for the Minnesota Digital Library to date has come from Library Services and Technology Act grants, provided by the State Library Services and School Technologies division of the Minnesota Department of Education. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities also contributed funding to the project. Other organizations have provided considerable time and talent.

## Minnesota Digital Library Coalition

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition is made up of professionals from the library, museum, archives, historical society, education and government communities in Minnesota. The coalition and its steering committee and management team work to create a server and database environment and use imaging tools to support ongoing and future work in establishing collections and providing services for public use of the collections.

In addition, coalition members work with local, regional and statewide organizations to identify and digitize the state’s unique resources and special collections. Libraries, historical societies, universities, high schools and archives all have contributed personnel time to the early stages of the development of the Minnesota Digital Library.

## Mission Statement of the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition

The Minnesota Digital Library Coalition will collaboratively build coordinated access to Minnesota’s unique resources and special collections in digital and electronic formats for use by the people of Minnesota and, through the Internet, the people of the world.

## Minnesota Digital Library Web sites, Home page:

[www.mndigital.org](http://www.mndigital.org)

## “Minnesota Reflections” collection:

[reflections.mndigital.org](http://reflections.mndigital.org)

## Lead Institution:

St. Cloud State University  
[www.stcloudstate.edu](http://www.stcloudstate.edu)  
 President Roy Saigo  
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## Project Contact:

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## Members of the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition include:

St. Cloud State University	College of St. Benedict/ St. John’s University
Minnesota State University, Mankato	St. Paul Public Library
Winona State University	Moorhead Area Public Schools
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities Office of the Chancellor	Nicollet County Historical Society
University of Minnesota Libraries	Iron Range Research Center
Minnesota Historical Society	Minnesota Office of Higher Education
MINITEX Library Information Network	

## Members, participants and supporters of the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition include:

American Swedish Institute	Northern Lights Library Network
Anoka County Historical Society	Otter Tail County Historical Society
Becker County Historical Society	Pennington County Historical Society
Big Stone County Historical Society	Pipestone County Historical Society
Beltrami County Historical Society	Pope County Historical Society
Blue Earth County Historical Society	Renville County Historical Society
Carlton County Historical Society	Roseau County Historical Society
Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange	Sacred Heart Area Historical Society
Clearwater County Historical Society	St. Benedict’s Monastery
Concordia University, St. Paul	St. John’s Abbey
Cottonwood County Historical Society	St. Olaf College
Dakota County Historical Society	Scott County Historical Society
Douglas County Historical Society	Sherburne County Historical Society
Fillmore County Historical Society	Southcentral Minnesota Inter- Library Exchange
Freeborn County Historical Society	Southeast Library System
Goodhue County Historical Society	Southwest Area Multicounty
Gustavus Adolphus College	Multitype Interlibrary Exchange
Hamline University	Stearns History Museum
Hennepin History Museum	Stevens County Historical Society
Iron Range Research Center	Stewartville Public Library
James J. Hill Library	Stillwater Public Library
Lake County Historical Society	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
Macalester College	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Martin County Historical Society	University of Minnesota Libraries, University Archives
MetroNet (Metropolitan area multitype regional system)	University of St. Thomas
Minneapolis Public Library	Wanda Gag House Association
Minnesota Educational Media Organization	White Bear Lake Area Historical Society
Minnesota Library Association	
Nicollet County Historical Society	
Northeast Minnesota Historical Center	



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