



Capitol Area Library Consortium Minnesota's State Government Libraries A Brief History

- 1973 CALCO was formed in 1973 with twelve (12) libraries. Today it has twenty-three (23) libraries. The purpose of the consortium was to develop a strong network of state government libraries and information centers.
- 1977 CALCO was incorporated and adopted bylaws. The bylaws were later amended in 1981, 1983, 1987, 1997, 2006, and 2012.
- 1979 CALCO persuaded the Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunications Exchange to accept their libraries as members. MINITEX is a statewide resource-sharing network funded by the legislature. This greatly improved interlibrary loan services for CALCO libraries.
- 1984 CALCO logo is created and used for promotional items such as the brochure and directory.
- 1985 CALCO members convinced the Department of Employee Relations to make a study of classification of library positions in state service. This resulted in an upgrade of the ranking of library positions.
- 1985 Legislation introduced to shift library processing from individual state agency libraries to the Legislative Reference Library failed. Later that year CALCO libraries gave testimony to the Joint Subcommittee on Libraries in favor of alternative legislation which better met their needs: funding for automating their libraries.
- 1986 CALCO worked with legislative staff to lay the ground work for funding legislation. Legislation was passed requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop a plan for automating state government libraries. CALCO libraries provided the report "Improving Access to State Government Libraries: An Automation Plan." The report was submitted to the governor and the legislature.
- 1987 CALCO was successful in receiving funding for fiscal years 1988 and 1989 to join the Project for Automated Library Systems (PALS) and began installation of the shared electronic library catalog. CALCO has been successful in subsequent years to continued funding for the electronic catalog.
- 1992 CALCO published an expanded version of the *CALCO Directory* containing membership, descriptions of libraries, and policies. It was awarded the Minnesota State Document of the Year by the Government Documents Round Table of the Minnesota Library Association.

- 1993 CALCO recognized its 20th anniversary with a celebration at the new Minnesota History Center.
- 1995 CALCO published a union list of CD-ROM publications.
- 1996 CALCO began a listserv for its members and later established a web presence by posting information about the member libraries on North Star, the official State of Minnesota web site.
- 1996 CALCO published “Guide to drafting title pages for state publications” and distributed to state agency publication offices.
- 1997 Minnesota legislature appropriated \$12,000,000 to establish the Minnesota Library Information Network (MnLINK) which will include a statewide integrated library system. CALCO is one of three groups of libraries mandated to participate.
- 1998 CALCO secured the largest, single Library Site Technology Grant in Minnesota (\$240,000) by creating a comprehensive technology plan. This grant provided staff for bar coding fourteen library collections in preparation for the statewide integrated library system. Training was also provided to CALCO staff for ongoing bar coding of their collections.
- 1998 CALCO produced a videotape “Celebrating 25 years of service.” Staff of member libraries appeared in the video giving highlights of their library’s collection and services. Users of the libraries also appeared with enthusiastic statements about the library.
- 1999 CALCO secured another grant: the Library Services and Technology Act award to eliminate backlog cataloging in eleven libraries.
- 2000 CALCO libraries successfully sought legislation to receive tax exempt status from state sales tax for library purchases.
- 2002 In March and June, staff layoffs in the Office of Library Development and Services prompted the closing of the LDS Library.
- 2003 The Department of Economic Security merges with the Department of Trade & Economic Development, forming the Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED). The DES library merges with the DTED library.
- 2003 Centennial State Agencies Library closes. This library was formed in 2000 with the merger of the Department of Administration Library and Minnesota Planning Library.

- 2004 Library Development Services and School Technology is established and becomes a member of CALCO.
- 2006 CALCO moves from electing a consortium Chair to a “convener” format. The library hosting the monthly meeting serves as the meeting convener, creating the agenda and conducting the meeting. The Executive Board consists of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Minitex Policy Advisory Council representative.
- 2008 CALCO celebrates its 35th Anniversary.
- 2011 Fire/EMS/Safety Center Library closed as a budget cutting measure of MnSCU. The collection is now housed at the Century College Library. This collection is one of only about a half dozen libraries in the United States primarily concerned with fire and emergency medical services.
- 2012 CALCO creates an Associate Member category for libraries who may not be affiliated with state government, but wish to attend educational programs and networking functions. Associate members earn voting privileges after five years. CALCO currently has four Associate Members.
- 2013 CALCO celebrates its 40th Anniversary!