Today is the official start of Mayville State University’s STEM Collaborative Cataloging Project. The project is being funded with Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries program from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Sparks program is available to libraries for small grants to encourage innovations in the way libraries operate and the services they provide. Proposals are funded when they have a broad potential impact for all libraries, offer significant innovation, and for the 2015 year a focus on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) innovations were encouraged.

MSU’s project is a collaboration between the Byrnes Quanbeck Library, the Mayville Area Teacher Center, and the MSU STEM Education Program. Our STEM Collaborative Cataloging Project will give area teachers easier access to the STEM kits available at MSU, will provide lesson plans to make the kits easier to incorporate into the classroom, and will allow teachers to reserve kits ahead of time so the kits they want to use in their classrooms will be available when they need them.

The project is being implemented in three phases:

- **Phase I (October 2015-Jan 2016)**
  - Purchase and configuration of a materials reservation system (Kitkeeper)
  - Lesson Plan Template and Rubric will be developed and reviewed by the Education Division of MSU and the Teacher Center Advisory Board
  - Creation of evaluation tool for using the STEM kits and the Kit keeper system
  - Creation of video tutorials for reserving items through Kit Keeper, creating lesson plans, and reviewing lesson plans

- **Phase II (Jan-July 2016)**
  - Unveiling of the new reservation system during the Martin Luther King Jr. Professional Development Day
  - MSU stakeholders will provide support to teachers in the use of the system and for the submitting and reviewing of lesson plans
  - Approved lesson plans will up added to each kit’s online presence
  - STEM kits will be repackaged (if necessary) to provide easier transportation of each kit

- **Phase III (Jun-Sep 2016)**
  - Creation of survey to evaluate teacher perceptions on the usefulness of the system as a whole which will be sent out at the end of August
  - The usage statistics and survey responses will be analyzed and compared to the performance goals within the grant
  - A white paper will be written about the project
  - Project findings will be submitted to various conferences for possible presentations

Each month of the project I will be writing a summary of the week’s activities with a more in-depth account at the end of each phase of the project.
If you would like to be emailed these updates please send a message to Kelly.kornkven@mayvillestate.edu with the subject heading of “Add me to Sparks!” The weekly updates will also be posted right on this website. If you have any questions regarding this project, my contact information is below.

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