

Bendable



Just what is Bendable? [Bendable](#) is a robust learning marketplace. It allows Maine residents of all ages and backgrounds to easily discover content that is just right for them on a wide variety of subjects and then acquire new knowledge and skills through online courses as well as local, in-person learning opportunities.

Hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals across the state are participating in workshops and other activities to help with design, content curation and promotion. It's being shaped by Mainers, for Mainers.

Bendable is an offering of the Maine State Library and the [Drucker Institute](#), a nonprofit social enterprise based at Claremont Graduate University. Bendable Maine will launch on August 23rd.

[Find out more about Bendable Maine!](#)



From the State Librarian

Greetings, Maine library community. The work we have accomplished over the last eight years has been inspiring! As I move on to a new role, and as we see changes across the Maine library landscape, take time to remember all the endeavors we have pursued.

One of my first opportunities to speak to many of you was at a District Council meeting in 2015. I invoked the idea of a “unicorn” as the way we viewed the things we most desired – always out of reach or never entirely ‘real’ – like a statewide library card! Collectively we set in motion positive and inspired determination to move the needle on so many things: offering databases through the Digital Maine Library, bringing van delivery to our most rural libraries, and creating the Maine Reciprocal Borrowing Program have all been steps in the right direction. All these things contribute to making our libraries stronger.

At the end of the day, how we work with each other and how we share resources to help people and transform information into knowledge is really what we do... and what we do well! It's what I will always remember about working with all of you. Be good to one another, and continue to make Maine libraries as best they can be.



A Fond Farewell

Hi everyone! Marijke and the specialists were gracious enough to let me say hello and farewell in their very first newsletter.

Retirement has been great so far and working on just ARPA and LSTA reporting has been a great way to ease into this new and very different life. I am confident you all are in very good hands with Marijke, Alison and Adam leading MSL and the entire team of specialists.

Now my time is dedicated to family projects. I have been planning my daughter's bridal shower, getting ready for the yearly McKenney Family reunion plus a trip to California to visit my two grandsons, my son and his wife. My deadlines are very different these days!

I can't thank everyone in Maine's library world enough for the warm wishes. My admiration and respect for all you do to serve your patrons, students and communities are so very important in these very trying times. Stay happy and healthy all!

Janet McKenney



Call for MLAC Representatives - Chip Schrader

So, why hop on board and be a representative for your region or library type at MLAC? Aside from being fun to say (think of the Aflac duck saying "MLAC"), it is a great way to be aware of what other libraries are doing. I was a new director when I served in a previous incarnation of this committee, and I got an in-depth understanding of what services the State Library, Maine InfoNet and Maine Humanities Council provide, a sneak peek into what's coming down the road, and a voice in what is offered next.

As a library director, this board will connect you with not only knowledge and a voice, but an understanding of who's who in the chain of services for librarians and the consortium resources for patrons. It's a terrific way to deepen your skills as a director. You will always know who to email when a question arises among your peers.

As a regional representative, you will meet with the committee 4-6 times annually. You help brainstorm ideas for topics/workshops at upcoming meetings and share your conversations with staff and directors to inform the State Library about what is happening in the field. You can pick a librarian or two from your two county region before each meeting to call, and ask them "what challenges are you facing?" or "what kind of services do you hope the State Library can provide?" The State Library just needs to know "what's up", in order to shape future services. That's the biggest part, other than having an interest in librarianship and an opinion about library service.

We are also seeking representatives from academic, school and special libraries. It's a great time, and you actually get to know great people from across the state. Contact me at chips@lbgoodall.org or Marijke Visser Marijke.A.Visser@maine.gov for questions or nominations.

Regional Spotlight

The **Bremen Library Art Gallery** has become a hotspot for artists both near and far! Each month, they hold an [artist opening](#), a popular event for their community. Shown here is "Lures", an oil on panel painting by South Portland artist Ellen Gutekunst.



Caribou Public Library's newest librarians, Catherine Catranis and Kirsten Hallowell, are excited about [connecting with their community](#). Catranis hopes to use a seed library program as a way of launching conversations about gardening, food scarcity and nutrition, while Hallowell's engagement with local families is leading to new storytime events and book clubs for teens.



Inspired by the Northeast Harbor Library, the **Winter Harbor Public Library** decided to create their own pollinator garden. Director Ruth Mapleton: "We envision these gardens as a way to attract and educate

children, to help our environment, and to make our outdoor space more beautiful. We'll be using the area for our final storybook walk this summer. A \$2000 grant from NNLM to promote healthy and active living helped us purchase a picnic table to utilize and increase the outdoor space of our library, making it a more welcoming space for the community."

The **Maine Contemporary Archives** (MCA) is piloting a program to [lend technology kits](#) to Maine libraries. These kits can be used to collect stories and materials from your community members, or for other community-based digital humanities projects. If you were able to make it to the MCA presentation at the MLA conference in May, this may already be familiar to you!



- The Audio Recording Kit includes a Tascam D-40X Audio Recorder and accessories. This kit can be used to record interviews, soundscapes, and other audio materials.
- The Digitization Kit includes a ScanJig, Samsung Galaxy Tablet and accessories. This kit can be used to digitize photos and documents, or create new audio-visual media.

The kits are free to use, and the lending period is two months. Each kit comes with equipment guides, Creative Commons release forms, metadata templates, and additional suggested resources. Each kit also provides ideas for programming that libraries and other cultural heritage organizations can use to engage community members in documenting history.

The McArthur Library is [partnering with AgingME](#) to work on brain health and food insecurity in Biddeford. As part of the partnership grant funds were allocated to purchase a Charlie Cart that will be used to explore better health in older communities through food. A Charlie Cart Project is an all-in-one, hands-on food education program for any learning environment. As part of the project, McArthur Library supported several programs to support Older Americans Month in May.



LibDev Discourse

For those who I haven't met yet, my name is Marijke Visser, and I am the new Director of Library Development, taking the baton from but not replacing Janet McKenney. I've been with the Maine State Library since October 2021, and before that I was with the American Library Association as a senior policy advocate in Washington, D.C. I join Adam Fisher, Director of Collections Development and Digital Initiatives and Alison Maxell, Director of Public and Outreach Services, Research & Innovation, as part of the leadership team at MSL. Until we can welcome a new state librarian, the three of us are working together with the Library Commission to ensure things at MSL run smoothly.

We're excited to launch our first statewide quarterly newsletter! In the spirit of the popular statewide meetings that started in 2020, we hope the newsletter becomes a venue for programs, events and discussions of issues that impact library service. It will also be a chance for you, our libraries, to share what's important to you. It won't replace the statewide Zoom calls but it will be another venue to share what is happening at MSL and in libraries across the state. If you have something to submit for our newsletter, [please use this form to do so!](#)

This column will be a regular feature where you can expect to read about a couple of highlights of what's going on across MSL. Right now, staff are spending a lot of time planning for when we can finally move back into our physical space in the cultural building on the State House campus. We have been making great progress on the vision for the renovation and are excited about opportunities for the new space. We're changing our floor plans to give more space for people to work and relax, and using our shelving and storage to give better access to our collections.

Thanks for reading our newsletter. Drop me a line anytime and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Gulf of Maine Research Institute hosts "Summer Spectacular"

As part of MSL's ongoing work with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, you are invited to join library staff, teachers, and other informal educators for a retreat August 22-23 at The Ecology School in Saco, ME. This is a chance to learn and do engaging climate/data related activities that you can apply in the library setting. Network with peers and team members from across the Learning Ecosystems Northeast group. Learn more and [register here](#).



Calendar of Events

September 14:

MSL's new **Adult Services Discussion Group** will debut September 14 at 2 PM. Deb Clark will host the quarterly virtual discussions where participants can share ideas and talk about providing library services and programs to community adults. The group will be supportive and stimulating. Please contact Deb with any questions at deborah.clark@maine.gov.

September 23

The **New Directors' Orientation** is designed for directors with less than three years of experience in their current role as a public library director. The training is an opportunity to network and exchange information with other library directors, obtain vital skills to enhance your library's programs and services, and learn how to engage in meaningful and productive ways with your staff, library board, and community you serve. [Click here to register](#). Please contact Jenny Melvin with any questions at jenny.j.melvin@maine.gov.

Fall 2022:

Maine Public Library Fund (MPLF) Grants will be accepted from October 21- November 18. If your library has not received an MPLF Grant in the last two years, you may [request funding](#) of up to \$5000 to develop innovative programming for your community. This cycle, we will give preference to projects and programs with an environmental sustainability or DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) focus. Please contact Deborah Clark with any questions at deborah.clark@maine.gov.

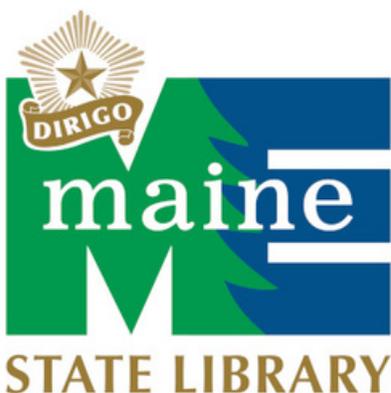


Coming in 2023

Thanks to support and funding from Governor Mills and the Maine legislature, **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** will be [expanding in Maine](#) in 2023. The governor was able to direct \$200,000 from the bipartisan supplemental budget to the project. This does not fully fund the project, but it provides startup funds. The fund and the program will be managed by MSL.

Several communities in Maine already have the program thanks to local donors. The Imagination Library staff will be working with those communities during the rollout to ensure a smooth transition. MSL staff are currently meeting with Imagination Library staff to figure out details to get the process started. The Imagination Library will roll out by community starting in 2023. They hope to have 14,000 children signed up by the end of that year.

Our public libraries will be great partners with MSL when it comes time to start up the program in their communities. Watch the MSL website and Facebook page for updates!



The Maine State Library helps people, makes
Maine libraries stronger and
transforms information into knowledge.



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