

digitalmainelibrary

Featured database: Chilton Library

From **Beth Crist:**

[Digital Maine Library](#) provides free online access to Gale's ChiltonLibrary to all Maine residents, anywhere, any time! With ChiltonLibrary, your patrons (and you!) will find accurate, user-friendly information that's continuously updated to cover most cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs on the road today, including:

- Step-by-step repair procedures (including helpful photos and videos).
- Troubleshooting guides and owner's manuals for additional support.
- Maintenance schedules to help prevent costly repairs.
- Current vehicle recalls and bulletins.

To learn more about ChiltonLibrary and how to search and navigate it, watch this recent 30-minute [tutorial from a Gale trainer](#). Then consider promoting it to your patrons and providing a demo at your library! You can connect directly to ChiltonLibrary here:



From the State Librarian



Lori Fisher

As I close out my first seven months as your Maine State Librarian, I want to express how impressed and grateful I am to be part of such a vibrant library community. A case in point is the call for participation in the task force groups we are creating for two of our critical statewide services: databases and van delivery.

Conversations around these two services have not been easy in the past. One area that I am hoping will help bring us all towards the same page in the book is more transparency about how those two services are funded and seeing the need to set priorities around the monies that are available. It is vital for all stakeholders to understand that as statewide services, these purchases need to be something that all stakeholders have identified as a priority for their patrons. In particular, with database costs increasing, we need to plan our subscriptions every year in advance, with as much notice to stakeholders as possible.

It has been very gratifying to see the response to the call for participation on the task forces. This is not a small ask – not only do we want these individuals to have the difficult conversations around these services, but also to promote a feedback mechanism among their particular stakeholder group, and to inform the stakeholder group about the decisions/actions of the task force as they occur. Rest assured, there will be ways for ALL librarians and library staff to provide feedback about these two services in September and October.

(cont. on page 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)

Thanks to a college statistics class at Bates College, we also will have some help collating and understanding the feedback we receive. All of this will inform the parameters we set within the Request for Proposals we put out in early January 2024 for these services.

But that's not all – the task force groups will also start to formulate plans for consistent promotion and training around these services, as well as designing an evaluation plan so that we are receiving regular feedback. It's not enough to do this every few years. We need to be more intentional about evaluation so we can identify problems quicker and find solutions that help libraries provide these resources to their patrons in the most efficient way possible.

Please reach out to Beth Crist, Director of Special Projects (beth.crist@maine.gov) or myself (lori.fisher@maine.gov) with questions or suggestions. My door is always open to our library community!

Lori

STEM in Libraries Month

From Youth Services Specialist **Kara Reiman**:

Here at MSL, we are designating this (and every) October as STEM in Libraries Month. We love STEM all year round, but we're taking the month of October to specifically celebrate its presence in our libraries.

We will be sharing trainings, program ideas, graphics, templates, and more! Please join us in making this a statewide celebration. It is for ALL AGES.

Access the [free shared resources](#) to get started. You may also [sign up here](#) to receive update emails as well as monthly STEM information.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program is coming to Maine! Through the program, children age birth through 5 in fully-funded areas will be mailed a new age-appropriate book every month, free to each family! The program is tentatively set to launch this fall.

How will it work? The State of Maine will fund half the cost of the books and shipping for kids statewide. Local programs, called Affiliates, will need to fund the remaining half. There are already a few Affiliates going strong in Maine and kids in those areas are eligible now. Once an area is fully funded, parents need to sign up their kids online and in about 6 weeks, they'll start receiving their books in the mail.

Will libraries need to secure funding for, or find organizations to, fund the program their communities? No, we are working on that at the state level.

How can libraries get involved? Once the program is fully funded in your area, library staff can promote it to families and help sign up kids. We'll provide promotional materials to help with that closer to the statewide launch!

What can I tell parents that want to sign up their kids now, and have other questions? Parents can register their children at the [Imagination Library](#) page with the Can I Register My Child? button. They will be alerted if the program is not available in their area yet; if that is the case, they can click on the New Program Alert button to pre-register their children. For these and any other questions, you can direct them to [this FAQ page](#).

Rare Colonial Cookbook Comes to Live at Maine State Library

From **Kimberly Clark**:

On July 28th, the [Lincoln Country Historical Association](#) (LCHA) presented the Maine State Library (MSL) with their original 1772 first printing of Susannah Carter's "The Frugal Housewife" at the Pownalborough Courthouse in Dresden, Maine. Director of Collections at MSL Adam Fisher and I were there to accept the donation and partake in the festivities organized by Perry Palmer and Faye Snyder, Trustees of LCHA.



Faye Snyder presents "Sam's Book" to Kimberly Clark and Adam Fisher.

Incredibly, this book, affectionally called "Sam's Book" by the LCHA, has unbroken provenance. On August 28, 1772 Major Samuel Goodwin purchased this book for the equivalent of \$75 from the printer/bookseller Edes and Gill, who had printed their first 500 copies. We know this book came from that first printing due to an error (page 123, printed incorrectly as 321).

After much use by his wife Elizabeth, the book was given to their daughter Abigail. Her bookplate is still attached to the inside cover (right before the 10 engravings by none other than Paul Revere). The cookbook was kept within the family until it was given to the LCHA in 1954. LCHA displayed it at the Pownalborough Court House, on Major Goodwin's own table.

Faye Snyder noted that 250 years and 11 months after being published, "Sam's Book" will find itself in good company at the Maine State Library, which also houses midwife Martha Ballard's Diary.

As part of the festivities, food samples were provided by colonial reenactors. Treats included apple fritters cooked over an open fire, almond pudding, almond custard and currant tart, pear pie, and switchel to wash it down (or lemonade for those who didn't fancy a mix of watered-down vinegar, ginger, and molasses).



"Sam's Book" displayed in the case on Sam's table with the new facsimile.

Another "treat" was guest speaker [Andy Volpe](#), a living history presenter and historical printer and artist who engraves in the style of Paul Revere in his work for the reenacting company The Printing Office of Edes and Gill in Boston. He talked about Revere and the engraving techniques that were used during his time.

LCHA has published a facsimile using the scanned images of the cookbook which were available to purchase for \$20. There are only a handful of known original first print copies with the typeset error. MSL is honored to be entrusted with the care and keeping of this rare piece of Maine's colonial history.

LibDev Discourse

From Library Development Director **Marijke Visser**:

There are two bright spots on my mind as we enter August. The first is that we are over rainy July (and June and May), my garden is drying out, and the slugs are disappearing. Second is that we awarded 39 public libraries through the Remote Work through Libraries initiative for a total of a little over \$1.7 million.

This is a joint initiative between MSL and the Department of Economic and Community Development, and is funded by the Governor's [Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan](#). Awards ranged from \$5000 to \$100,000 and will be used to establish or expand services for Maine's remote workforce, focusing on communities where access to business centers or co-working spaces is lacking or where there are barriers preventing workers from taking advantage of existing facilities.

I owe a big thank-you to my team and members of MLAC (your region reps who serve on the Maine Library Advisory Council) who read through the applications and made very difficult decisions a bit easier. We are currently planning for many opportunities for the Remote Work through Libraries cohort to share their plans with the wider library community. In the meantime, here is a rough compilation of the projects underway:

- Many, if not all, of the projects address ADA compliance in some way. Libraries want to make sure that their spaces are accessible by everyone in the community.

Libraries looked at their existing space creatively to make it a place people would want to work. They included private nooks, sound-proofed meeting space, collaborative workspace, comfortable and flexible seating, special spaces for workers with young children, and perks like extra charging stations and a refreshed kitchenette.

- Upgrades to technology and also HVAC and electrical systems are part of many projects to ensure remote workers have the tools necessary to do their jobs in a safe and healthy setting.
- Libraries are adding on inside and outside the current space, renovating unused rooms, designing outdoor workspaces, and undertaking significant construction work.

Because I strongly believe we learn from the experiences of others, I'd like to highlight three aspects of applications that stood out to reviewers (thinking about strategies to create strong applications for future grants from MSL or other organizations).

1. This grant focused on serving an identified community need. Strong applications referenced sending out surveys to patrons, reaching out to community organizations, and connecting with key stakeholders. Libraries made it clear how they were using that feedback to shape their projects. For example, would they purchase new laptops, focus on private workspace, or add charging stations (among other decisions).
2. Successful applications made the remote work aspects front and center and wove that theme throughout the rest of the application. These applications made it clear the priority for the project was establishing services, programs, and/or spaces for remote workers and other benefits from the project were secondary (though equally important).
3. Successful applications also indicated specific ways the library intended to sustain the investment and incorporate the project long-term into library services.

[Here is a full list](#) of the Remote Work through Libraries cohort. We can't wait to see these projects unfold!

From the Stacks

Miniature Books

From Reference Librarian **Kelli Burnham**:

One reference question that has brought delight to everyone recently was about whether we owned any miniature books (under three inches in height). Miniature books have a long history ranging from religious texts carried by monks to tiny books made for dollhouses.

The one we found in our collection was *Octagonal Houses of Maine* by Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh of Winthrop and is 25mm in height. The book is a scaled down version of her master's degree thesis in Art & Architecture, and contains information and line drawings on various octagonal buildings around Maine. It was published by Mosaic Press in Cincinnati and given to the library in 1985. Mosaic Press is still in operation today, selling a variety of titles printed in miniature, including some bound in leather or sold in sets complete with slipcover.



If anyone stumbles across any other miniature books in their travels, the Maine State Library Reference Department would love to know!

Public Services & Outreach

Talking Books

From Outreach Services Director **Chris Boynton**:

The Braille and Talking Book program is a free library service administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), Library of Congress. The program is provided through the Maine State Library to Maine residents who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a visual or physical disability.

Talking books and magazines are available online and on the go through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service and BARD Mobile. BARD Mobile is available for iOS and Android devices. Talking books also are available on cartridges that can be played using NLS-issued playback equipment. All materials are circulated by postage-free mail.

Call us toll free for more information at 1-800-762-7106, and follow these links:

[National Library Service](#) and [Maine State Library Outreach Services](#)

MLAC Looks Ahead

From MLAC Chairperson **Michelle Fagan**:

The Maine Library Advisory Council (MLAC) met in July with region check-ins and plans to look ahead. MLAC kicked off their July meeting with region check-ins. We met the new Region 7 Rep Sarah Lesko, the director of Ellsworth Public Library, and we are excited to have her join us. We are also excited to have our MASL seat filled by Beth Anderson from the Dyer Elementary School. The Reps took turns talking about info that was sent to us from around our regions. Region 5 shared that Somerset Public Health is willing to train any Somerset public library on how to use Narcan. Many of the regions shared fundraising info, building info, remote workers grant recipients info and more.

We have two MLAC members sitting as representatives on the Van and Database Taskforce. Sarah Lesko is going to be the MLAC rep on the Van Taskforce and Michelle Connors will be the MLAC rep for the Database Taskforce. We are looking forward to hearing more on this in the coming weeks and months. Stay tuned as we navigate the future of MLAC and plan the Fall and Spring councils. We will announce the Fall date soon!

A Change for Summer Reading 2024

From **Nicole Rancourt**, Maine Humanities Council:



As many of you know, Maine has been a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for well over a decade. While this program has its merits, we, Kara Reiman and Nicole Rancourt, your CSLP state coordinators, felt it was time to investigate other options. We are so excited to transition to iRead for summer 2024 and want to highlight some reasons why.

The general concept is very similar to CSLP in that there is an affordable manual filled with detailed and flexible programming ideas for all ages. Each year centers around a theme, well known illustrators design accompanying graphics, participating libraries have access to additional related materials, multiple states participate, and price points are comparable. We're also able to operate within a similar ordering process. These familiar and foundational elements afford us all the opportunity to seamlessly adopt iRead.



The 2024 theme for iRead is: Read, Renew, Repeat

It's the differences that elevate the program for us. To begin with, iRead is coordinated and created by a group of paid librarians through the Illinois Library Association. A resource of this magnitude takes many individuals many hours to create. Prioritizing a budget to pay for this work results in a better run organization that produces resources of higher quality. Additionally, an increase in the number of Maine's libraries who use the manual will not increase the state's membership fee – because there is none! What's more, iRead isn't just for public libraries; school libraries are more than welcome to access this resource, too. This is important to us, as we know many school libraries remain open and active during the summer months. Finally, iRead remains open to suggestions and feedback, so Maine's libraries will continue to have voice.

So, while summer is winding down, we are already thinking of next year! Come learn more about iRead on Friday, September 1 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm: [register here](#). We'll be joined by a member of the iRead team who will share more information about the organization and its resources, and there will be time for questions.

If you're ready to order your iRead manual now, you may do so [here](#)! If you're not sure yet and want to attend the webinar first, you will have about a week afterward to get your orders in.



Regional Highlights

Portland Public Library

From Adult Services Director **Sarah Skawinski**:

Thanks to ARPA Digital Divide funds, we purchased two private meeting pods for patron use at our Downtown Branch. Each soundproof cubicle is equipped with lights, ventilation, electrical outlets, conference-style seating for 4, and a table. A patron may wish to use a pod for a Zoom interview, meeting with a lawyer, a telehealth visit, quiet workspace, a remote work meeting space, meeting with a tutor, a private conversation, and many other reasons!



New private work and meeting pods at PPL

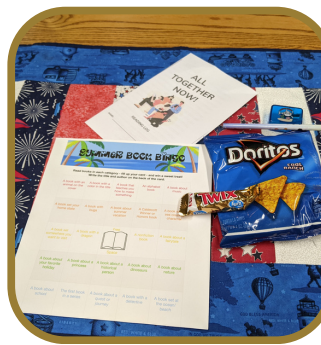
The pods are available in one-hour blocks, with a two-hour maximum, and they can be reserved in advance at the reference desk. We hope to have Chromebooks, video ring lights, and adjustable computer stands available for use in the pods soon. Contact reference@portlib.org for more information.



**Have library
news for the
next newsletter?
Submit your
article and photo
HERE**

Zadoc Long Free Library

From Director **Kathy Hladik**:



At Zadoc Long Library, we are Reading All Together to complete book challenges. Here is a Young Reader's packet, complete with munchies! After filling the Bingo card, kids can redeem it for an Ice Cream Ticket, to

be used at our next door store, Tilton's Market, for an ice-cream treat! Older children can take the Summer Read Tournament challenge, and after 8 books, they can take an Ice Cream Ticket!

We're so thankful to the store manager, Sandra Fickett for helping us to provide this fun prize! I plan to check in and pay my (discounted) tab each week as the program goes.

Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

From Director **Jen Dupree**:

The Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library in Lovell hosted author Joe Hill for a very successful (and not raining) event! The evening began with a ticketed wine and cheese reception in which attendees could meet and chat with Joe. After that hour, the event moved outside for a free reading, Q&A, and book signing. The library raised nearly \$1300, but more importantly, it was a great time! Joe is funny, warm, and personable and the seventy-plus people in attendance had a wonderful time.



*Library Director Jen
Dupree, Joe Hill, Board
President Chris Rothman*

Rutherford Library

From Director **Priscilla House**:

It's been a busy year; we've transitioned from a sleepy small town library, which has its own charm, to an active member of the community. Changes include the institution of monthly art shows and speakers, including renowned journalist/author Michael Putzel, and suffragette historian Anne Gass, among others.



Susan Connery, one of our monthly artists, donated a beautiful floor cloth depicting the old Maine flag emblem

We had our first Edible Book Festival. We've begun using interlibrary loan and have become actively involved with the local elementary school with a summer reading challenge and assisting with the summer school program. We purchased passes to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens for the first time, have Farnsworth Museum passes courtesy of the Plein Air Painters.

Thankfully we have an active, committed board of directors. We installed heat pumps to cut our heating costs and keep our event attendees from roasting, with help from a Burn's Foundation grant. Our community room, in addition to the art shows and events, hosts a weekly quilters group and weekly mahjongg players. And of course we have books - lots of them. Library life is good.

Stonington Public Library

From Director **Christopher Ross**:

Natural Science Story Time for young readers: Sue Stoessel has got a bone to pick with anyone who claims that learning is a drag. Stonington resident and former Senior Education Associate at the Boston Museum of Science, Sue is no stranger to developing educational content that engages young learners and teaches them about the natural world. She's done just that for SPL and will offer a monthly Natural Science Story Time—best for ages 4-8, all ages welcome—from 10-11am on the second Saturday of every month from July-October. Come discover what wonders are hiding in plain sight on our island!



North Haven Library

From Director **Kathryn Quinn**:

The North Haven Library will be embarking on a major renovation beginning this fall. Repairs to the main structure include windows, roof, foundation, as well as installing heat pumps and solar panels. We have added two more hours to the summer season opening 10-12 & 2-5 Monday - Saturday. Final plans for that phase have not been completed at this time. Coming up on August 15 at 5 PM, Cindy Bullens will talk about his new book *My Life as a Cosmic Rock Star*. This will be co-hosted with Waterman's Community Center at Waterman's Theater.

SAVE THE DATE!

New England Teen Summit



Tiffany D. Jackson
Friday, November 17 10:10 am



Teen Summit
A New England Collaborative

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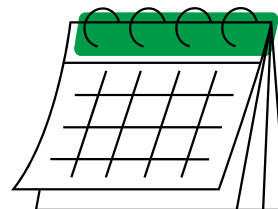



#NETeenSummit

On Friday, November 17th, the New England Teen Summit will kick off with keynote speaker Tiffany D. Jackson, author of "Monday's Not Coming". Follow #NETeenSummit for more announcements!

The Teen Summit is an annual day-long virtual conference focusing on services for teens and is created and run by the youth library consultants from the 6 New England States.

This issue of MSL Quarterly was edited by Kara Reiman (kara.reiman@maine.gov) & Jared Leadbetter (jared.leadbetter@maine.gov)



Calendar of Events

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|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 25, 1pm | STEM in Libraries Month Planning Session Sign Up |
| September 1, 11am | Introduction to iRead for Summer 2024 Sign Up |
| September 7, 1 pm | Science for Everyone Sign Up |
| September 22, 9 am | New Public Library Director's Orientation
Augusta Civic Center |
| September 29, 1-4 | Public Library Trustee Roundtable
Maine State Library Sign Up |
| Month of October | STEM in Libraries Month |
| October 3, 1pm | The Eclipse is Coming! Are you and your library ready? Sign Up |
| October 19, 10-4 | Introduction to Facilitating STEM Programs
Carrabasset Valley Public Library |
| October 23, 10-4 | Introduction to Facilitating STEM Programs
Ellsworth Public Library |
| November 3, 11am | Youth Services Chat Sign Up |