March 2016

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Maine State Library

Maine Regional Library System

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Maine Library Commission
Agenda
Wednesday
December 5, 1973
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Coffee

Introductions

Organization - election of chairman (two year term)

Review of LD 828

I. Direct state aid 10¢ per capita
   A. Application form (see enclosed drafts)
   B. Discussion of check-list philosophy

II. Designate Library Districts (see enclosed proposals)

III. Discuss designation of Area Reference and Resource Centers and Research Center(s)

IV. Priorities for expenditure of funds under Section 3
   A. Regional films
   B. AV resource projects

V. Priorities for expenditure of funds under section 4
   A. NELINET
   B. Bookmobile services
   C. Handicapped services
   D. Films
   E. Resource centers
   F. District consultant(s)

* Lunch break at appropriate time

Determine date for next meeting

Adjournment
DISTRICT MEETINGS

Maine now has three library districts, each having an area reference and resource center. Each district held an initial organizational meeting in February. The agenda for the meetings included discussion of the plans and services being offered by the area reference and resource centers (Bangor Public Library; Portland Public Library; Maine State Library). The selection of district consultants was also discussed.

The district councils were unable to elect official executive boards, as a sufficient number of lay representatives were not designated by participating libraries. Interim committees were elected to carry on necessary business until such time as the membership designations will allow for executive boards composed of three librarians, one trustee and five lay members, as required by the legislation.

The present interim committees are as follows:

NORTHEASTERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

George Rich, Houlton, Chairman
Claire Lambert, Bar Harbor
Helen Oliver, Calais
Robert Pyle, Northeast Harbor
Mary Snyder, Belfast
Anne Stimpson, Presque Isle

CENTRAL MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

Richard Gross, Chairman
Lenore Child, Lisbon Falls
Noval Lewis, Pittsfield
Debora Loring, Augusta
Norman Moore, Waterville
Suse Weissman, Brunswick

SOUTHERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

William Alexander, South Portland
Barbara Bond, Saco
Katherine Dingman, Westbrook
Anne Pierce, Falmouth
Loraine Stickney, Gorham
Alice Towne, Bridgton
DATE: January 4, 1974
TO: Librarians/Presidents or Chairmen, Boards of Trustees
FROM: J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian
SUBJECT: First annual meeting, Northeastern Maine District Council

DATE: Wednesday, February 13
PLACE: Pilots Grill, Bangor - one mile west of Interstate on Rt. 2
TIME: 10:30 a.m.

VERY IMPORTANT MEETING - this is a call for the organizational meeting of the Northeastern Maine District Council. Your attention to this matter is IMPORTANT.

A notice was sent December 11, 1973 to all public libraries in Maine outlining the initial recommendations of the Maine Library Commission. That notice indicated additional information would be forthcoming suggesting procedures for the formation of library districts.

It is assumed you have access to a copy of L.D. 828, An Act Creating Regional Library Systems. Please refer to that document for specifics.

The crucial message to be conveyed to you by this notice is the importance of the designation, by the governing board of your library, of a representative to the Northeastern Maine District Council. This representative may be a librarian, trustee, or lay person. It is this representative who should make a sincere effort to attend this first meeting of your district council.

The proposed schedule is to have a district council meeting in your district on the above-captioned date. Members of the Maine Library Commission are being invited to attend. The tentative suggested agenda is attached.
Please return the enclosed Agreement to Participate to:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

With this agreement, your governing board is designating a representative to the Northeastern Maine District Council. It is emphasized that this agreement in no way diminishes local autonomy.

You are urged to give this matter prompt and serious consideration, as the formation of the district council is a vital link in the continuing effort to maximize cooperative activities and services within the Maine library community, and thus better serve the entire population of the State.

Do you have a question you would like answered prior to the meeting? You are invited to call toll free via the Telcon telephone service: 1-800-452-8784, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. When you call, request Telcon, and your call will be transferred to Library Development Services. If you will then leave your name and telephone number(s), Richard E. Arnold, Legislative coordinator, will attempt to return the call within 24 hours, as incoming WATS line calls are not transferable to the appropriate extensions within the building.

NOTE: This meeting is not restricted to those designated as the representative of the local unit. Other librarians, trustees and lay persons are invited to attend.

Enclosures:
1. Agenda
2. Agreement to Participate form
AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHEASTERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

Please return this form by February 5, 1974 to:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

The Board of Trustees of the ___________ Library in the municipality of ___________ has voted that the Library shall join the Northeastern Maine Library District, and requests that ___________ (Librarian)(Trustee)(Lay Person) be designated a voting member of the Northeastern Maine District Council.

It is understood that a library district, by definition, is a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries voluntarily cooperating among themselves and with an area reference and resource center and a research center; local libraries within the district may also be joined cooperatively with other types of libraries.

It is also understood that a district council, by definition, shall serve as a policy-making body for the district, within the limits of its authority, which shall in no way diminish the power of the local library board.

The governing board of each library which has agreed to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. At its first annual meeting the district council shall elect an executive board composed of, in total, nine (9) members, which shall include three (3) librarians, one (1) trustee and five (5) lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its numbers the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least three (3) times a year.

_________________________________________ LIBRARY

By_____________________________________

(Title)

Date____________________________________

Please indicate here the number of persons from your community who plan to attend the first meeting of the district council _______

(Do not include designated representative, above)
TO: Librarians/Presidents or Chairmen, Boards of Trustees

FROM: J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian

SUBJECT: First annual meeting, Central Maine District Council

DATE: Thursday, February 21

PLACE: Augusta Civic Center - at Belgrade exit from Interstate

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

VERY IMPORTANT MEETING - this is a call for the organizational meeting of the Central Maine District Council. Your attention to this matter is IMPORTANT.

A notice was sent December 11, 1973 to all public libraries in Maine outlining the initial recommendations of the Maine Library Commission. That notice indicated additional information would be forthcoming suggesting procedures for the formation of library districts.

It is assumed you have access to a copy of L.D. 828, An Act Creating Regional Library Systems. Please refer to that document for specifics.

The crucial message to be conveyed to you by this notice is the importance of the designation, by the governing board of your library, of a representative to the Central Maine District Council. This representative may be a librarian, trustee, or lay person. It is this representative who should make a sincere effort to attend this first meeting of your district council.

The proposed schedule is to have a district council meeting in your district on the above-captioned date. Members of the Maine Library Commission are being invited to attend. The tentative suggested agenda is attached.
Please return the enclosed Agreement to Participate to:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

With this agreement, your governing board is designating a representative to the Central Maine District Council. It is emphasized that this agreement in no way diminishes local autonomy.

You are urged to give this matter prompt and serious consideration, as the formation of the district council is a vital link in the continuing effort to maximize cooperative activities and services within the Maine library community, and thus better serve the entire population of the State.

Do you have a question you would like answered prior to the meeting? You are invited to call toll free via the Telex telephone service: 1-800-452-8784, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. When you call, request Telex, and your call will be transferred to Library Development Services. If you will then leave your name and telephone number(s), Richard E. Arnold, Legislative Coordinator, will attempt to return the call within 24 hours, as incoming WATS line calls are not transferable to the appropriate extensions within the building.

NOTE: This meeting is not restricted to those designated as the representative of the local unit. Other librarians, trustees and lay persons are invited to attend.

Enclosures:
1. Agenda
2. Agreement to Participate form
DATE: January 4, 1974

TO: Librarians/Presidents or Chairmen, Boards of Trustees

FROM: J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian

SUBJECT: First annual meeting, Southern Maine District Council

DATE: Thursday, February 28

PLACE: Cumberland Room, Sheraton Inn, South Portland (Exit 1 from Maine Turnpike, near Maine Mall)

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

VERY IMPORTANT MEETING - this is a call for the organizational meeting of the Southern Maine District Council. Your attention to this matter is IMPORTANT.

A notice was sent December 11, 1973 to all public libraries in Maine outlining the initial recommendations of the Maine Library Commission. That notice indicated additional information would be forthcoming suggesting procedures for the formation of library districts.

It is assumed you have access to a copy of L.D. 828, An Act Creating Regional Library Systems. Please refer to that document for specifics.

The crucial message to be conveyed to you by this notice is the importance of the designation, by the governing board of your library, of a representative to the Southern Maine District Council. This representative may be a librarian, trustee, or lay person. It is this representative who should make a sincere effort to attend this first meeting of your district council.

The proposed schedule is to have a district council meeting in your district on the above-captioned date. Members of the Maine Library Commission are being invited to attend. The tentative suggested agenda is attached.

Please return the enclosed Agreement to Participate to:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330
With this agreement, your governing board is designating a representative to the Southern Maine District Council. It is emphasized that this agreement in no way diminishes local autonomy.

You are urged to give this matter prompt and serious consideration, as the formation of the district council is a vital link in the continuing effort to maximize cooperative activities and services within the Maine library community.

Do you have a question you would like answered prior to the meeting? You are invited to call toll free via the Telcon telephone service: 1-800-452-8784, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. When you call, request Telcon, and your call will be transferred to Library Development Services. If you will leave your name and telephone number(s), Richard E. Arnold, Legislative Coordinator, will attempt to return the call within 24 hours, as incoming WATS line calls are not transferable to the appropriate extensions within the building.

NOTE: This meeting is not restricted to those designated as the representative of the local unit. Other librarians, trustees and lay persons are invited to attend.

Enclosures:
1. Agenda
2. Agreement to Participate form
AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHEASTERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

Please return this form by February 5, 1974 to:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

The Board of Trustees of the _____________ Library in
the municipality of _____________ has voted that the Library
shall join the Northeastern Maine Library District, and
requests that _____________ (Librarian)(Trustee)(Lay
Person) be designated a voting member of the Northeastern
Maine District Council.

It is understood that a library district, by definition,
is a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries
voluntarily cooperating among themselves and with an area
reference and resource center and a research center; local
libraries within the district may also be joined cooperatively
with other types of libraries.

It is also understood that a district council, by definition,
shall serve as a policy-making body for the district, within the
limits of its authority, which shall in no way diminish the power
of the local library board.

The governing board of each library which has agreed to
participate in the district system shall appoint a representative
to the district council. At its first annual meeting the district
council shall elect an executive board composed of, in total,
nine (9) members, which shall include three (3) librarians, one (1)
trustee and five (5) lay members. The district executive board
shall elect from its numbers the appropriate officers as needed.
The district council shall meet at least three (3) times a year.

____________________ LIBRARY

By ____________________ (Title)

Date ____________________

Please indicate here the number of persons from your community
who plan to attend the first meeting of the district council _____
(Do not include designated representative, above)
AGENDA

I. Opening remarks - J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian

II. Introduction of Maine Library Commission

III. Review of L.D. 626, as it pertains to the district advisory council - Richard Arnold, Legislative Coordinator

IV. District council organization
   A. Election of executive board
   B. Election of officers

V. Council advice on designation of area reference and resource center

VI. Discussion of services of area reference and resource center

VII. Discussion of selection of district consultant

VIII. Other business

IX. Closing remarks - Robert C. Woodward, Chairman, Maine Library Commission
The MAINE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM, established in 1973 by P.L. 626, is a network of three library districts formed to organize and improve library resources and services for research, information and recreation. Each district has a designated major library to provide interlibrary loan and back-up reference service to member libraries.

Regional Services Coordinator: Benjamin Keating.

NORTHEASTERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT
Bangor Public Library
145 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401
Tel.: 207/947-8336
Karl Beiser, Consultant
Number of Libraries: << 43

SOUTHERN MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT
Portland Public Library
5 Monument Square
Portland, ME 04101
Tel.: 207/774-1792
Shirley Helfrich, Consultant
Number of Libraries: 39

CENTRAL MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT
Maine State Library
Cultural Building
Augusta, ME 04333
Tel.: 207/289-3328
Sheila Mckenna, Consultant
Peg Stewart
LIBRARY APPROPRIATIONS

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<td>(1975)</td>
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<td>Construction Money:</td>
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<td></td>
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The MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION, consisting of 15 members appointed by the Governor, is an advisory body in the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. It advises the Commissioner of Education about policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the state's library program.

The COMMISSION is broadly representative of the state's libraries, with a representative each from public, school, academic, special, institutional and handicapped libraries; a trustee, one each from the three regional library districts; and three state at-large members, one representing the disadvantaged.

The MAINE STATE LIBRARY is primarily a reference and research center, offering adult materials in many subject areas. It supplements the resources of public and school libraries and is a support library for state agencies.

STATE STATISTICS

| State Population (1970 census): | 993,663 |
| Area of State:                  | 33,000 square miles |
| Number of Cities and Towns:     | 500     |
| Cities & Towns over 10,000 Population: | 15 |
| Number of Public Libraries:     | 214     |
The goals of the Maine Regional System are to encourage all types of libraries to improve service to their communities through cooperative efforts among themselves and the Maine State Library, and to guarantee equal access to library material and information.

The system provides for an active interlibrary loan program, back-up reference service, consultant services, state aid to local libraries, and free direct access to an Area Reference and Resource Center.

Interlibrary loan activity has increased annually since the inception of the system. Over 32,000 items have circulated on interlibrary loan this year. Back-up reference service, also increasing yearly, is presently handling between 75,000 to 80,000 requests. Over 250 local libraries have received the direct state aid per capita. This aid is used by the libraries to improve their services.

Three districts comprise the Maine Regional System. Each district has an Area Reference and Resource Center, which provides the district services (interlibrary loan, back-up reference, direct free access for district residents).

Each district has a consultant. The consultant's office is located in the Area Reference and Resource Center. Besides giving professional advice, the consultants offer workshops, book reviews, and leadership to over 250 member libraries.

Membership in the Maine Regional System is open to all types of libraries (public, school, academic and special). Each member library has a representative to the District Council. The representative can be either the librarian or a trustee. There are also lay members on the Council. The District Council in turn, elects members to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board reviews district services and problems. They then make recommendations and offer advice regarding policies and operations of the district and/or the Maine Regional System.

Each district has a written plan of service. The plans state how the Area Reference and Resource Centers provide district interlibrary loan, back-up reference service, direct free access to area residents and other cooperative programs.

The Maine Library Commission, authorized by the same statute creating the Maine Regional Library System, is broadly representative of the State's libraries. It is the function of the Commission to give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program.

Federal LSCA funds are allocated to two area reference and resource centers (Bangor Public Library and Portland Public Library).

Specific FY 80 activities will include a continuation of the effort to promote the sharing of resources. One technique being considered is Mainecard (a statewide borrowing card), which would permit Maine residents to use libraries in
communities in which they work, shop and visit. An attempt to fund Mainecard was unsuccessful in FY 79 but will be tried again in the near future.

As in other programs the Regional Library System will devote special attention to the resolutions passed at the April, 1979 Maine Governor's White House Conference on Libraries (see Project X, Administration, for a list of the top priority resolutions).
Mr. Edward V. Chenevert, Jr.
Director
Portland Public Library
5 Monument Square
Portland, Maine 04111

Dear Ed:

This letter is in response to the inquiry to you from Councilwoman Pamela Plumb regarding library fees.

To repeat what we have been discussing recently I feel it would be inappropriate for the Portland Public Library to begin to charge fees to users throughout the Southern Maine Library District.

A review of 27 M.R.S.A. § 110, 2 indicates that a designated area reference and resource center receiving state aid must make its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district. Portland Public Library has done a great job providing this much needed service to library users throughout Cumberland and York counties. To now charge fees would be a step backward.

At the local level, it is clearly the intent of the law that public library service is a free service. Consequently, a local public library which charges fees to residents would not be eligible for state aid.

It is my great hope that in the next regular session of the Legislature, state support can be strengthened. It is also my hope that the additional LSCA money proposed will carry the system until the present legislation can be strengthened to give Portland more fiscal assistance or amended to allow non-resident fee charges.

I sincerely hope that the Portland Public Library will be able to meet the immediate funding challenging without assessing fees to users.

Warm regards,

J. Gary Nichols
State Librarian

cc: Harold Raynolds, Commissioner

Libraries... Rising To Meet The Challenge
From the very beginning of the regional Library program the key issue has been equal and free access to the state's grant literature collections and informational resources. The concept of free use, without charge, of Area Reference and Resource Centers was built into the law because it encouraged access to a quality library collection at accessible locations for all citizens regardless of economic means or accident of geographic location. You and I know this great ideal is only feasible if the fiscal support is fair, equitable and places no undue hardship on communities asked to share their valuable and costly resources. It is my great hope that in the next regular session of the Legislature, state support can be strengthened. It is also my hope that the additional LSCA money proposed will carry the system until the present legislation can be strengthened to give Portland more fiscal assistance or amended to allow non-resident fee charges.

I am advised that at this time under the present definition of the law (PL.626 Sec. 110:2) non-resident fees charged to residents of the district covered by the Portland Public Library would be prohibited.

You know that I will do everything possible to achieve a fair funding formula for the Portland Public Library for the great services provided to area residents and Libraries.
MAINE'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Twenty-five years ago this spring the Regional Library Systems Act began to take effect. Over time it succeeded in its aim to widen and improve access to library services for all Maine residents. Today, students in the smallest high schools and users of the most remote public libraries can plug into the resources of the largest public libraries in the state and draw on the services of their professional staffs.

The Regional Library Systems Act was enacted in 1973 after a long process that began in the 1950's. The American Library Association adopted a guide for minimum standards for public libraries in 1956 calling on all public libraries to join cooperative library systems, acknowledging that few public libraries can independently meet all the demands placed on them. By this time several states had developed regional systems and they worked well and continue to do so.

Ruth Hazelton became Maine State Librarian in 1958, coming here from Massachusetts where regional systems were being put in place. Working with the officers of the Maine Library Association, she asked Marion Moshier, retired head of Library Extension for the New York State Library, to survey Maine libraries and make recommendations for library development in Maine.

Moshier's 1962 report proposed that Maine consider forming 4 to 6 "District Library Systems" each based on populations of 200,000 and each centered on a strong public library. (The American Library Association minimum standards for systems called for a population base of at least 150,000 and a strong resource center with at least 100,000 non-fiction titles.) Moshier's report also called for a staff of 6 professionals and 12 non-professionals in each District. This recommendation would have more than doubled the payroll of the State Library; it was seldom mentioned again. Moshier also called for a District
borrower's card for use in any member library.

At a Governor's Conference for Library Trustees held in 1963, Ruth Hazelton repeated her call for a statewide system "which provides every citizen, regardless of where he lives, with equal access to good library service". The featured speaker at the Conference, Grace Stevenson, argued that quality library service for any but the very largest library requires membership in a cooperative library network.

In 1969, following the recommendation of the Planning and Development Committee of the Maine Library Association and of the Maine Trustees Association, Governor Curtis appointed a Governor's Task Force to Study Library Services in Maine. Its report, Widening the Circle. Libraries for Tomorrow, appeared in 1971. The Task Force called for a new kind of library service standard in Maine where a library would set its goals and measure performance not only in terms of its own resources but in terms of how readily it is able to bring together library users and library resources from anywhere.

Specifically the Task Force recommended a statewide borrower's card, something that always comes up when a citizen's group looks at ways to widen and improve access to library services in Maine. They called for funding for improved interlibrary loans, the development of a union catalog, more libraries in NELINET and statewide acquisitions and cataloging. The Task Force noted that many libraries that might benefit from the interlibrary loan system already in place made little use of it, claiming that they could fill most requests from their own collections. (As many as a third of all public libraries today make little or no use of the interlibrary loan service.)
The report of the Task Force earned wide attention inside and outside the library community. The Governor promptly appointed a special committee, the Maine Library Advisory Committee, to draw up legislation to establish regional library systems, create a commission to advise the Commissioner of Education on policy matters (the State library was then a bureau in the Department of Education), and to recommend state funding levels.

By the beginning of the Legislative session in 1972-73 the Advisory Committee had its recommendations nearly ready. One big issue was in dispute: how many regional systems should it recommend for Maine. Should we have 8 regional systems or fewer than that or as many as 25. The proposal for 8 Districts, as they came to be called, was supported by those who were impressed by the State Planning Office division of the State into 8 planning and development districts. Others were taken by the argument of the Commissioner of Education that it would be a great idea to establish Districts in parallel with areas served by the 25 vocational and technical high schools.

The guidelines of the American Library Association and studies of library systems reported in library literature all called for systems--or Districts--to be based on populations of at least 200,000 with a central resource library holding at least 100,000 non-fiction titles. Only two of the 8 Districts proposed had a population base over 150,000 (one had only 65,000) and only three had a resource center with 100,000 non-fiction titles. The 25 District proposal had a kind of handsome symmetry but only one Advisory Committee member took it seriously.

Regional meetings were held around the state to discuss the proposed legislation. There was general approval of the
idea of regional systems, consultant services, council representation and expanded services. The 250 who attended hearings around the state offered little advice on the matter of how many districts should be designated. In the end, the Advisory Committee left it to the new Library Commission to designate the district boundaries and the Area Reference and Resource Centers.

In the hearings there was some opposition to the regional concept. Opponents argued that local libraries would be submerged in the regional organization, losing autonomy, identity and even some local funding. One distinguished citizen, prominent in Maine's cultural life, patiently pointed out that we were innocently creating the means for the state library bureaucrats to take control of local libraries. He and other opponents (only two appeared at the legislative hearings) were assured that the regional systems were designed not to govern libraries but to channel services to them.

About this time Ruth Hazelton retired. She had been a strong defender of local library autonomy and a champion of the regional concept. Her successor, Gary Nichols, has also shown the same concerns and his efforts have been a major factor in the success of the Regional Library Systems Act.

The Act passed the Legislature in June, 1973 and took effect in October. The Governor appointed members to the new Library Commission and they met for the first time in December, 1973. The first order of business was to designate the number and boundaries of the Districts. Some of the new Commission members had served on the Advisory Committee and it was unanimously agreed that three Districts, with nearly equal populations, based on the three strong collections of the Portland, Bangor and Maine State libraries best met the criteria established
District Councils held their first meetings in the spring of 1974 and by year's end Consultants had been hired in the Central and Southern Maine Library Districts. The three Area Reference and Resource Centers began interlibrary loan and reference support services at once and within a few years ILL activity doubled and then doubled again. In 1975 the Library Commission approved funding for OCLC access at the three ARRCs. This far-sighted recommendation by State Librarian Nichols meant that Portland and Bangor would be only the second and third public libraries in New England to tie into OCLC and it positioned Maine for major benefits in all areas of automation.

Within ten years Maine's public and school libraries were generating over 40,000 interlibrary loans. (It is now over 50,000.) This put Maine among the top states nationally and first among New England states in interlibrary loan activity. Journalists, legislators, other lay people and even some librarians are quick to point out that Maine is a poor state with many small libraries; of course it has high ILL activity for just those reasons. Not so. The reasons are counter-intuitive. High ILL activity is characteristic of states with high levels of library expenditures and high levels of circulation—states such as Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Iowa and, yes, Maine whose per capita expenditures and circulation activity are above the median for all states. Low levels of ILL activity are associated with states where per capita expenditures and circulation are low—states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas.
REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATION IN MAINE
A BRIEF ANALYSIS

by Benjamin F. Keating
REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATION IN MAINE:
A BRIEF ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND
Regional library cooperation in Maine formally began in 1973 with the introduction of the regional library laws.

The law created the Maine Regional Library System (MRLS) and established a statewide structure arranged around three districts of equal population.

Within each district a large public library was selected as an Area Reference and Resource Center (ARRC). The ARRC’s had to be large enough to offer a comprehensive collection and quality service to district member libraries.

The selection of three districts was not unanimous. The Maine Library Advisory Committee, the forerunner of the Maine Library Commission, debated the district issue at length. Eight to twelve districts were recommended by several members of the Committee. When it became apparent that there did not exist eight to twelve large public libraries capable of delivering the support services, a recommendation was made to find the funding needed to build the collections of eight to twelve smaller libraries. This proposal was rejected because of the inherent costs.

The state’s three largest public libraries, (Bangor Public Library, Portland Public Library, and the Maine State Library) were then designated as ARRCs and a three district regional system was formed.

SCHOOLS
From its beginnings in 1973 the Maine Regional Library System welcomed the participation of all types of libraries. At that time the inclusion of school libraries in a statewide cooperative network was revolutionary. Schools did and still do offer unique challenges to and pressures on resource sharing systems. Other states either chose to ignore the needs of schools or they developed separate integrated systems composed only of school libraries. The motivation to include school libraries in the Maine system was grounded in two reasons.
First, there were few school libraries with adequate collections or professional librarians. A separate school network would not support the need. Second, and more important, the goal of the MRLS, equal access for all Maine residents, demanded that every library in the State service as a point of entry into the system. The student living on the St. John’s River in Northern Aroostook County would have the same access to materials and information as would the scholar living in Portland. This same commitment to schools and equal access for all still remains a driving force of the regional system and is most recently expressed in the school participation in MaineCat.

It is worth noting that many state library systems are currently being revised to include school library membership.

THE UNIVERSITY

The unselfish contribution to library cooperation from the University and private colleges was a pleasant surprise to the supporters of the regional system.

Generally, private colleges are reluctant to share resources freely. Large universities see their role as a library of last resort, not a full partner in cooperation. Arrangements are made between the universities and colleges to share resources with each other. The loaning of material to public and school libraries is possible only after several hurdles are cleared. This has not been the case in Maine.

Bowdoin, Bates, and Colby Colleges have been active participants in interlibrary lending and borrowing from the beginning of the regional system. In the spirit of cooperation and reciprocity, they have played a key role in the success of Maine's library network.

The University of Maine, early on, was designated the library of last resort. In practice, however, the University has offered its collection and services in a far greater capacity.

Under its current director, the University of Maine, along with the Maine State Library, has assumed a leadership position in statewide computer assisted resource sharing. The University plans on-line linkage with all of its campuses, the three private colleges, the Maine State Library, and selected large public libraries. In time membership will expand to include many other libraries. Once again, a unique contribution to library cooperation.
AREA REFERENCE AND RESOURCE CENTERS

As mentioned above, the ARRCs were selected based on the size of their collection and their ability to provide supplementary services to local libraries within their districts.

Although unequal in size, the districts are equal in population and number of libraries.

The principle responsibility of the Area Reference and Resource Centers is to provide interlibrary loans to member libraries and other libraries statewide. The ARRCs do this extremely well. More interlibrary loans per capita are filled through the Maine Regional Library System than are filled by any other state in the northeast, including the large industrial states of New York and Pennsylvania. There is strong evidence to suggest that Maine’s per capita level is among the highest in the nation.

Much of the systems success can be attributed to the participation of schools and the colleges and universities. However, there are several other important elements in this success story.

The Area Reference and Resource Centers place great emphasis and commitment on providing and publicizing interlibrary loan service to the State of Maine.

Libraries are encouraged to use the system and promote it to their patrons. In turn, the system is easy to use: with few rules and few obstacles.

In its infancy, the ease and informality of the system welcomed use, simplified paperwork, and overcame many objections to regionalism and dependency. After the system was up and running and accepted, the lack of barriers and bureaucracy accelerated the use of interlibrary loan and district involvement. In addition, the network arrangement (one regional center per district and no need to bump requests from one sub-regional to another) and the delivery method (U.S. Mail) helped streamline ILL efforts and accented speed and ease.

The cohesion of Maine’s large libraries was yet another development that bolstered resource sharing efficiency. In the late seventies, early eighties, Maine was the only state in the country where every major library collection was available through the OCLC network.

Any ARRC could electronically search the new acquisitions of first, the other ARRCs and then, those of the State’s major
colleges and universities. Now, after retro-conversion in most OCLC libraries, it is possible to search entire collections.

The pattern of unselfish cooperation that existed before OCLC continued among Maine’s libraries after its introduction. This cooperation is evident today in the planning stages of the University Resources Serving Users Statewide (URSUS) system. The willingness to share resources has always existed, however it is now possible to share more effectively.

MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION

No other feature of the Maine Regional Library System has changed more dramatically then the Maine Library Commission.

On December 9, 1971, the Maine Library Advisory Committee met for the first time. The committee was established by an act of the 105th Maine Legislature. The act directed the Committee to perform seven specific duties. The final duty was to "propose a state-wide plan for library development and recommend legislation to the 106th Legislature to implement the plan".

The plan that was developed and recommended by the committee and reviewed and passed by the 106th Legislature became the law establishing the Maine Regional Library System and with it, the Maine Library Commission.

The State Library, at that time, was under the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. Therefore the commission was created within the Department. Both the State Librarian and the Library Commission reported to the Commissioner of Education.

The Library Commission was charged with advisory responsibilities for regional library development. Specifically, the Commission was to advise the Commissioner of Education with regard to the appointment of the State Librarian and the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State’s library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, and the designation of area reference and resource centers.

The Commission’s final responsibility was to act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeal board concerning decisions of the commissioner. (For more information see MAINE REVISED STATUTES, Title 27, Chapter 4). Regarding federal LSCA funds, the commission acted as the LSCA Advisory Board.

In December of 1989 a document was published entitled REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE’S
CULTURAL AGENCIES. The report recommended that the four Cultural agencies (State Library, State Museum, Arts Commission, and Historic Preservation) be removed from the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and be reorganized under a new entity called the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council.

The report was accepted by the Legislature and enacted in 1990. Its impact on the Maine Library Commission was important. The Maine Library Commission became a policy making board, assuming the authority of the Commissioner of Education in the area of regional library development.

The Commission, which has always broadly represented the state's libraries (public, school, academic, special and institutional) as well as other library interest, was unique among the four Cultural Agencies in that it was advisory, not policy-making. Now all four had policy-making authority and the power to appoint their respective agency directors.

MAINE STATE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The newly formed Maine State Cultural Affairs Council is composed of the Chairs and vice-chairs of each of the four cultural commissions. The Chair is appointed by the Governor from the combined membership of the four commissions.

The Council does not have policy-making responsibilities but rather acts as a coordinating and planning board. Their chief duty is to coordinate the budget plans for submission to the Bureau of the Budget. They meet and work with a staff member the Governor's office.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Much of the success of the Maine Regional Library System could be traced to the philosophy and the policies of the Maine State Library.

The Maine State Library has two major areas of responsibility. It provides direct and back-up library services to Maine citizens and it acts as the administrative headquarters and as an active participant in library development and the Regional System. With a collection including more than 400,000 books, periodicals, newspapers, government documents, maps, manuscripts and other non-book materials, it is one of the state's strong libraries.

Planning for the Regional System takes place with leadership from
the State Library. The State Library's commitment to access to strong library resources for all Maine citizens directs the cooperative library efforts.

The future of regional cooperation in Maine will depend largely on the leadership of the Maine State Library and its new relationship to the Maine Library Commission. New technology may alter or transform the delivery of interlibrary loan and other support services, but the goal of equal access for all will remain an unchanged principle.

REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATION IN MAINE:
A BRIEF ANALYSIS

by Benjamin F. Keating
The Maine Regional Library System has been meeting the educational, informational and recreational needs of Maine residents since 1973. All the services provided by the Maine Regional Library System are free of charge to you. All kinds of libraries participate in the system: public, school, academic and special libraries. Ask your librarian about the Maine Regional Library System. They can help you gain greater access to books and information.

The Maine Regional Library System:

- makes over 5,000,000 books useful to you
- makes information on any topic available to you
- provides direct free access to a large library for all Maine residents
- provides consultant services and professional leadership to local libraries

The following libraries have been designated Area Reference and Resource Centers. They offer interlibrary loan, information and reference service, and free library cards to residents of their districts:

**BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY**

(Aroostook, Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, Washington counties)

**MAINE STATE LIBRARY**

(Androscoggin, Franklin, Lincoln, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset and the Brunswick area)

**PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

(Cumberland and York counties excluding the Brunswick area)
the federal government's efforts to promote the acquisition of
the informational and educational needs of the federal government and
the public at large, the federal government's role in the development
of educational policies and programs, and the role of educational
institutions in the federal government's efforts to promote the
acquisition of information and knowledge.
Facts About Maine Libraries

MAINÉ'S PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO STRONG LIBRARY RESOURCES. Through the three regional library systems, over 5,000,000 books, 16mm films, the information resources of the state's academic libraries, and the computerized data bases of large technical libraries across the nation, are available to Maine's residents through their local school and public libraries.

THE 1,000,000 RESIDENTS OF MAINE ARE SERVED BY:
212 public libraries,
418 school libraries,
21 libraries in academic institutions, scores in hospitals and businesses, and by a strong state library consisting of eight bookmobiles, five sub-regional libraries serving Maine's visually and physically handicapped and a regional film resource.

WATS lines and a TWX network link all the libraries in the state. A resident of the smallest town or a student in the smallest school, can tap the resources of a distant library quickly through the network.

THE SYSTEM WORKS REMARKABLY WELL.
Nearly 6,000,000 books were borrowed from public libraries last year. In New England only libraries in Massachusetts were more active than this on a per capita basis.
Over 40,000 books were mailed from resource centers to school and public libraries last year.
Only New York has interlibrary loan activity that is heavier than this on a per capita basis.

This heavy use reflects the effectiveness of the regional systems. It reflects, too, the heavy investment in library services made by local communities.
Only Massachusetts and Connecticut spend more, on a per capita basis, among New England states for public library services.
With the result that Maine's library resources and services are among the strongest in the nation.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE TO WIDEN AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICES IN MAINE?

Nearly 200,000 Maine residents live in towns with NO LIBRARY at all.
Another 157,000 people live in towns so small (under 2,500), that they cannot afford full library services—evening hours, telephone, professional staff, or minimum purchases of books and magazines.

Even the 150,000 residents of towns with populations from 2,500 to 5,000 seldom find their library open nights.

In only five cases can the local library add even a few hundred of the more than 30,000 books published each year.

Many of the smallest libraries in the state, serving over 300,000 people, make little or no use of the interlibrary loan network and little or no use of the reference support available to them.

How do we widen access to the strong library resources of Maine for the nearly 500,000 residents who do not have direct access through libraries in their local community?

Facts About School Libraries

1976 statistics show that out of 976 schools in Maine, 500 of them have centralized library/media centers. Of these, 145 are in high schools and 355 are in elementary/junior high schools.

332 staff members work in Maine school libraries, 221 of them are certified librarians.

Many schools serve the community during non-school hours.

5 regional media centers located in the three districts serve schools; PRIME in Portland serves both schools and public libraries.

More than 100 school systems are members of the Maine Regional Library System which makes it possible for them to borrow materials through interlibrary loan from the major resource centers in the state. These libraries also can call toll-free on WATS lines if special materials or information is needed quickly.

The Media Section, located in the Maine State Library, coordinates both school and public library activities. The major responsibilities of the three professionals and three support staff consist of:

1. Administering the ESEA Title IV, Part B program which distributes funds for library and learning resources to all Maine schools ($707,000 for FY 1979).
2. Approving building plans for school libraries.
4. Administering the in-school Instructional TV program which provides programming to Maine schools over the public broadcasting stations.
5. Providing and maintaining a video library for all libraries having access to the proper equipment to utilize the service.
6. Providing consulting services to schools and public libraries.
Facts About Maine Academic Libraries

Approximately 39,000 students are enrolled in 26 post-secondary institutions that offer at least 2-year programs of college level studies.

Total volume count for these academic libraries is approximately 2,350,000.

An estimated 5 million dollars is spent annually to staff, service and stock the libraries.

Books and other library materials cost more than 1½ million dollars per year.

A staff of 250 librarians and support staff (excluding student assistants and work study) service the libraries.

The University of Maine system consists of eight campuses (plus Bangor and Walpole), enrolling 26,800 students. Its library services are available to all Maine residents.

Maine's 18 private colleges enroll 9,000 students.

There are six state vocational and technical institutes offering one and two-year post secondary advanced training in a variety of technical fields.

Facts About Special Libraries

Health Science Library and Information Cooperative (HSLIC)

Serves Health Professionals throughout the State of Maine.

Expands your library service with:
- shared interlibrary loans
- information services
- consulting
- education
- cooperative library practices
- comprehensive health science
- library network

Bangor Mental Health Institute
Bangor, Maine 04401

Governor Baxter School for the Deaf
P.O. Box 799
Mackworth Is.
Portland, Maine 04104

Maine State Prison
Box A
Thomaston, Maine 04861

Maine Youth Center
675 Westbrook Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

Augusta Mental Health Institute
Augusta, Maine 04330

Pineland Training Center
Berman School Box C
Pownal, Maine 04069

Maine Correctional Center
South Windham, Maine 04082
The guiding philosophy of the Maine Regional Library System is to provide every resident of the State with an equal opportunity to acquire the resources and materials to satisfy educational, informational, and recreational needs. To assure equality, the services of the Maine Regional Library System have been free. Residents living in isolated poorer sections of our state can obtain access to library services on a par with residents living in wealthier more populated areas. The service which guarantee equality are provided by the Area Reference and Resource Centers, located at the Bangor Public Library and the Portland Public Library. Direct free access to an Area Reference and Resource Center is one of the most effective services they provide. However, it is becoming apparent that the extensive growing use of this service has far exceeded the reimbursement necessary to provide it. Without additional financial support, the Area Reference and Resource Centers will be forced to charge fees to state residents who have had, up to this point, free and equal access. Obviously, charging fees will jeopardize the long standing goal of parity by denying library resources and information to certain segments of our population. The purpose of this request is to support non-resident use of the Area Reference and Resource Centers by providing a reasonable subsidy for this service. There are currently 12,000 active non-resident borrowers using either Bangor or
Portland Public Libraries. The request of $84,000 is based on $7.00 per user. The $7.00 figure is lower than the share paid by Bangor and Portland residents to support their libraries.
THINGS FOR A DISTRICT CONSULTANT TO DO: TO WIDEN AND IMPROVE ACCESS FOR LIBRARY USERS.

1. STUDY NEEDS OF LIBRARY USERS IN THE DISTRICT
What to look for:
Which libraries in the district have inadequate ILL activity—and why.
Which libraries make inadequate use of the WATS service—and why.
Which libraries do not support the common borrower's card concept—and why not.
Which libraries have inadequate public relations and make recommendations on ways to help them.

What to look for:
Ways to develop greater cooperation at the local level and between towns.
District-wide programs which are needed—such as cooperative acquisitions.
Ways to improve access to non-print—and related hardware.
Ways to improve ILL and WATS services—would UPS do a better job than the US Mail?

3. Study needs of residents in towns without libraries. Should we go into some kind of mail order service for them? How should we publicize whatever we do?
The consultants are more than advisors to librarians; they are advocates for and spokesmen for all library users—actual and potential.

4. Study ways to improve communication and cooperation among different types of libraries (see p. 25, Widening the Circle).

5. Recommend cooperative measures among libraries (see p. 26 and 27 of Widening the Circle). These might include: common borrower's card, last copy deposit, joint scheduling of hours of service, joint acquisitions, sharing personnel, etc.

6. Recommend standards for district level services.

7. Consultants should read P.L. 626 and the recommendations in Widening the Circle. There are more ideas in both.
TO: Members of the Maine Library Commission

FROM: Robert C. Woodward

It is apparent that the Commission will again be faced with the problem of responding to a proposal for legislation to permit the ARRC in Portland to charge non-resident fees. The Commission opposed such legislation in 1981 arguing that it subverted efforts underway for twenty years to widen and improve access to library resources for all Maine residents. A statewide borrower's card has long been a primary goal of library planners in this state and was the top recommendation of the White House conference in 1980. Free access to the ARRCs is basic to the development of free access statewide.

There is no FREE access, we are often reminded. Access costs someone--the ARRCs in this case. However, we have seen reimbursement for the ARRCs grow from $27,000 in 1975 to $81,250 in 1982 with a proposal for an increase to $126,000 in 1983. Will this be adequate reimbursement for the ARRCs?

It will be for Bangor but not Portland, apparently. Table I on the enclosed sheet shows why. Portland's costs are much higher than Bangor's. In fact, among the twenty New England cities in the 50,000 to 65,000 population range, Portland's budget is way over average as represented in Table II by Framingham and Nashua--both libraries with new buildings, branches and in Nashua's case, a bookmobile operation.

Not only are Portland's costs higher than average for cities its size in New England, its performance as an ARRC in Maine lags behind the other two in terms of interlibrary loan and reference service. Portland provided only % of the interlibrary loans coming from the ARRCs in 1981. Bangor mailed % (See Table I.) Yet both ARRCs were reimbursed the same.

(It is ironic that it is the high cost, low performance ARRC which needs still greater reimbursement. However, costs are a real problem for Portland, where a huge, energy inefficient building eats up inordinate fuel and staff dollars. It is a real problem, too, for the Commission. We must respond in a way which does not ignore the legitimate needs of Portland and in a way which does not require the State to finance extravagances in the Portland operation)

No ARRC in any state I know of is reimbursed on the basis of the percentage of use by non-residents. Springfield, Worcester and Boston in Massachusetts, for instance, have heavy non-resident use; their state reimbursement does not nearly equal the percentage of activity attributable to non-resident use.

As one Commission member pointed out: how an ARRC (or any library) feels about statewide free access seems to be largely a product of its service philosophy. If one accepts the fact that a ten percent increase in circulation activity, or even a twenty percent increase, is something that a library can absorb without adding staff or incurring
other costs, then increased walk-in demand is no threat. It happens
in the normal up and down cycle of activity in libraries every week.
If, on the other hand, a library is insecure for some reason or if its
costs rise for reasons other than increased circulation, then it is
often convenient to blame the non-resident walk-in user.

It could be argued that neither Bangor or Portland could reduce
their staffing levels by $81,250 a year if either stopped providing
ARRC services. Bangor certainly couldn't. Neither library could ex­
pect to generate even $20,000 yearly in new income if it charged non­
resident fees.

Some states reimburse ARRC services on a performance basis.
Illinois pays $4.00 for each interlibrary loan mailed out and $2.00
for each request unfilled. Connecticut was paying $.90 for each loan
to a non-resident walk-in user. Using these performance measures
Portland would have been reimbursed for 1981 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ILLS mailed @ $4.00</td>
<td>$21,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searches @ $2.00</td>
<td>$11,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-res circulations @ 90¢</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$86,958

Under this formula Portland is very nearly adequately reimbursed
as things stand. Certainly an additional $45,000 yearly as proposed
would cover the cost of collection development as well as reasonable
reimbursement for services rendered.

Thanks for listening. I've offered these thoughts and the stat­
istics in order to give you something to work with as we puzzle our
way through to some kind of equitable position.
TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>% of Total ILLs Mailed by 3 ARRCs</th>
<th>Cost of ILL Service</th>
<th>Cost per ILL Sent</th>
<th>Non-resident Walk-in ILL Circulation (Estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANGOR</td>
<td>$747,735</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>$64,311</td>
<td>$3.45</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND</td>
<td>$1,132,743</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$31,320</td>
<td>$5.94</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAINE STATE LIBRARY</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,272</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ILL = Interlibrary Loan

TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAMINGHAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASHUA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE III

SOURCES OF INTERLIBRARY LOANS RECEIVED BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 1981 AS REPORTED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ON THEIR ANNUAL REPORTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Source:</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAINE STATE LIBRARY</td>
<td>5,957</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>10,279</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Library System
Program Description, FY 1982

Part C

The Maine Regional Library System seeks to provide equal access to library materials and services to all Maine residents through cooperative efforts among all types of libraries. The system is especially concerned with service to the unserved and inadequately served areas of the state.

Through an extremely active interlibrary loan network Maine has generated more interlibrary loan activity per capita than any other New England state. Approximately 40,000 items circulated through the system to individuals across the state. Many of the Maine citizens benefiting from interlibrary loan services are residents of isolated and rural locations. The Maine Regional Library System is the only means to good library service for many rural residents. The regional system will continue its commitment to a strong interlibrary loan program.

Back-up reference service is another important aspect of the Maine Regional Library System. Through free WATS district libraries have immediate contact with their area reference and resource centers. The centers provide a high level of reference assistance each year. Last year over 80,000 reference requests were handled by the three area reference and resource centers. This service has increased each year of the regional program. FY 82 should be no exception. This service is invaluable to users of all types of libraries.

The allocation of direct state aid to public libraries will also continue in FY 82. Over 200 local libraries receive aid which is used to help improve services. An effort will be made in 1983 to increase the per capita state aid.

Participation in the Maine Regional Library System is open to all types of libraries. Membership includes public, school, academic, and special libraries, as well as involvement of trustees and non-library related members. There are three districts in the system, each with an area reference and resource center. The centers provide the above mentioned services. Each participating library has a representative. The representatives form a district council which meets at least twice a year and plans the future direction of the district. From the district council an executive board is chosen. The 9 member board meets frequently and determines programs that reflect district interests and concerns.

In FY 82, many programs are planned involving cooperative projects. A very successful book purchasing cooperative will continue along with a supply cooperative and a bindery cooperative. Cooperative efforts among local libraries is an outstanding way to increase services and decrease costs. This is particularly important to the smaller communities where budgets and staff are limited.
Each of the three districts has a district consultant. The consultants are generalists and are often called upon to advise in all aspects of librarianship. The consultants are also the individuals most responsible for seeing that ideas become reality. They serve on most committees and organize district functions. Their leadership is crucial to the success of the program.

Each district is required to develop a plan of service. The plans indicate how the districts attempt to provide services to foster cooperation and to assure equal access to all communities. Special attention is given to those communities where good library service is unavailable.

The Maine Library Commission, a 15 member advisory board, is broadly representative of the state libraries. It is the function of the commission to give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the state's library program.

Federal LSCA funds are allocated to the area reference and resource centers located at the Bangor Public Library and the Portland Public Library for providing interlibrary loan and other district services.
### GOAL ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>FY82</th>
<th>FY83</th>
<th>FY84</th>
<th>FY85</th>
<th>FY86</th>
<th>EVALUATION TECHNIQUES(S)/FINAL EVALUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document Area Reference and Resource Center Services</td>
<td>1. Record and examine statistical reports from the ARRCs.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Compute and evaluate services supplied by ARRCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Re-examine district services and set priorities.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Determine adequate funding level for ARRC activity.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funding request for ARRC during next Legislative session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. through MLC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. ILL survey of ARRCs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Implement district plans of service and White House Conference resolutions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>New programs to expand library service and address needs of library users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Legislation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. District Councils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Develop uniform reporting forms for ARRCs.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. meet with ARRC ILL staff &amp; ARRC librarians &amp; MSL reference head</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Determine statistical data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Distribute forms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>FY82</td>
<td>FY83</td>
<td>FY84</td>
<td>FY85</td>
<td>FY86</td>
<td>EVALUATION TECHNIQUES(S)/FINAL EVALUATION</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand district services and promote district activity</td>
<td>1. Further expand school library participation.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Hold more frequent regional (mini) meetings.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Evaluate and develop cooperatives.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>New programs to expand library service and address needs of library users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Involve trustee participation in district activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. work with district councils and ARRCs to determine possible ARRC service restrictions and/or changes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Organize and give &quot;planning process for public libraries&quot; workshop statewide</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>FY82</td>
<td>FY83</td>
<td>FY84</td>
<td>FY85</td>
<td>FY86</td>
<td>EVALUATION TECHNIQUES(S)/FINAL EVALUATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide administrative support for Maine Library Commission</td>
<td>1. Prepare agendas, minutes, and research material</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Well organized Commission meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Maintain communication between Commission and District Councils.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Communication between the Commission and the library community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. attend &amp; report on all district council meetings, Executive Board meetings and Maine Library Commission meetings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Help Commission work with White House Conference resolutions, especially those which focus on service to unserved or inadequately served areas.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Establish statewide borrower's card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Compile figures and survey National ILL charges.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basis for future Legislative requests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Person: Ben Keating

Telephone: (207) 289-3328

Program/Project: Maine Library Commission
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>FY82</th>
<th>FY83</th>
<th>FY84</th>
<th>FY85</th>
<th>FY86</th>
<th>EVALUATION TECHNIQUES(S)/FINAL EVALUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote Maine Regional Library system and ARRC services and increase the visibility of district wide and statewide library service</td>
<td>1. Issue news releases statewide and nationally</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>More and better library publicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Rejuvenate regional library system slide show</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stronger support for library legislation and finances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Redo regional system brochures</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increased awareness of ARRC services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Make use of all available media sources to promote new and on-going library services and events</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Coordinator:** Ben Keating  
**Contact Person:** Ben Keating  
**Telephone:** (207) 289-3328

### GOAL

#### Coordinate Automated Services with Regional Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>FY82</th>
<th>FY83</th>
<th>FY84</th>
<th>FY85</th>
<th>FY86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Statistics</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. ILL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Direct free access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Back-up reference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mailing lists &amp; labels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. District members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Trustees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EVALUATION TECHNIQUES(S)/FINAL EVALUATION**

Consistently up-dated statistics and mailing list labels.  
Have capacity to print out at any time.
### GOAL
Establish a summer reading program which creates cooperative activities between school and public libraries.

### ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>FY82</th>
<th>FY83</th>
<th>FY84</th>
<th>FY85</th>
<th>FY86</th>
<th>EVALUATION TECHNIQUE(S)/FINAL EVALUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Review television library club and evaluate program together.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More school and public libraries working together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Make decision on the continuation of the TLC.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Redo format of TLC, if continued.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Find alternate forms of funding for TLC.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>FY82</td>
<td>FY83</td>
<td>FY84</td>
<td>FY85</td>
<td>FY86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase school library participation in District Council activities</td>
<td>1. Review services of Media section for school librarians a. District Council meetings b. mini district meetings c. workshops night</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Have district consultants work with Media section to increase school participation in regional system</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>FY82</td>
<td>FY83</td>
<td>FY84</td>
<td>FY85</td>
<td>FY86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote Books-By-Mail Program</td>
<td>1. Use district consultants to publicize Books-By-Mail program in individual districts.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Direct free access to large resource libraries is a necessary and fundamental principle of the Maine Regional Library System. It is the basis of a long cherished hope to provide free access to the entire resources of the State for all residents regardless of economic or geographic conditions.

Last year over 12,000 Maine residents held non-resident borrower's cards from the Area Reference and Resource Centers located at the Bangor and Portland Public Libraries. Many of the 12,000 live in towns without libraries or in towns with inadequate library service. For many of the non-resident users the Bangor and Portland Public Libraries provide their only source of quality library service and their only entry into the wealth of library resources and information contained in libraries throughout the State and the Nation.

Recently, a legislative effort to permit the Area Reference and Resource Centers to charge fees for non-resident use was unsuccessful. It failed because it would have abolished the philosophy of free and equal access; a philosophy which is supported by the Maine Library Commission, the Maine Library Association, the Maine Governor's White House Conference on Libraries, the Humphry Report (an analysis of the Maine Regional Library System prepared by John and James Humphry), and the vast majority of the library community. The effort also failed for practical reasons. User fees create barriers to educational and informational materials for many residents; and they generate very little income for libraries.

A wiser and fairer solution to non-resident use of the Area Reference and Resource Centers is State support. This legislative session the Governor is requesting $94,000 to finance free and equal library access. The $94,000 would be divided equally between Bangor and Portland in each year of the biennium. It would adequately fund both libraries for their non-resident activity and at the same time guarantee educational and informational equality.
TO: Members of the Maine Library Commission
FROM: Robert C. Woodward

It is apparent that the Commission will again be faced with the problem of responding to a proposal for legislation to permit the ARRC in Portland to charge non-resident fees. The Commission opposed such legislation in 1981 arguing that it subverted efforts underway for twenty years to widen and improve access to library resources for all Maine residents. A statewide borrower's card has long been a primary goal of library planners in this state and was the top recommendation of the White House conferees in 1980. Free access to the ARRCs is basic to the development of free access statewide.

There is no free access, we are often reminded. Access costs someone--the ARRCs in this case. However, we have seen reimbursement for the ARRCs grow from $27,000 in 1975 to $81,250 in 1982. There is a proposal for an increase to $126,000 in 1983. Will this be adequate reimbursement for the ARRCs?

It will be for Bangor but not Portland, apparently. Table I on the enclosed sheet shows why. Portland's costs are much higher than Bangor's. In fact, among the twenty New England cities in the 50,000 to 65,000 population range, Portland's budget is far above the average as represented in Table II by Framingham and Nashua--both libraries with new buildings, branches and in Nashua's case, a bookmobile operation.

Not only are Portland's costs higher than average for cities its size in New England, its performance as an ARRC in Maine lags behind the other two in terms of interlibrary loan and reference service. Portland provided only 15% of the interlibrary loans coming from the ARRCs in 1981. Bangor mailed 55%. (See Table I.) Yet both ARRCs received the same reimbursement.

Reimbursement from the State for ARRC services meets less than ten per cent of Portland's salary costs. The same reimbursement meets over twenty per cent of Bangor's salary costs. This is the problem for Portland and for the Commission. The Commission must respond in a way which does not ignore Portland's legitimate needs and in a way which does not ignore performance standards.

No ARRC in any state I know of is reimbursed on the basis of the percentage of use by non-residents. Springfield and Worcester in Massachusetts, for instance, have heavy non-resident use; yet their state reimbursement, as a percentage of their total budget, doesn't come close to equaling the proportion of total library activity attributable to non-resident use.
As one Commission member has pointed out: how an ARRC (or any public library) feels about statewide free access seems to be largely a product of its service philosophy. If one accepts the fact that a ten per cent increase in circulation activity, or even a twenty per cent increase, is something that a library can absorb without adding staff or incurring other costs, then increased walk-in demand is no threat. It happens in the normal up and down cycle of circulation activity in libraries every week. If, on the other hand, a library is insecure for some reason or if its costs rise for reasons other than increased circulation, then it is often convenient to blame the non-resident walk-in user.

It could be argued that neither Bangor nor Portland could reduce their staffing levels by $81,250 a year if either stopped providing ARRC services. Bangor certainly couldn't. Neither library could expect to generate even $20,000 yearly in new income if it charged non-resident fees. The public library in Hingham, Massachusetts, dropped out of that state's free access program a few years ago when it counted 4,000 non-resident walk-in users. It instituted a $25.00 non-resident fee. Fewer than 500 non-residents elected to pay the fee.

Some states reimburse ARRC services on a performance basis. Illinois pays $4.00 for each interlibrary loan mailed out and $2.00 for each request unfilled. Connecticut was paying $.90 for each loan to a non-resident walk-in user. Using these performance measures Portland would have been reimbursed for 1981 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,259 ILLs mailed at $4.00</td>
<td>$21,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,961 searches at $2.00</td>
<td>11,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60,000 non-res circulations @ 90¢</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$86,958</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under this formula Portland is very nearly adequately reimbursed as things stand. Certainly an additional $45,000 a year as proposed would cover the cost of collection development and use as well as reasonable reimbursement for services rendered.

Thanks for listening. I've offered these thoughts and the statistics in order to give you something to work with as we puzzle our way through to some kind of equitable position on this matter.
### TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Budget</th>
<th>Circulation Mailed</th>
<th>No. of Total ILLs Mailed</th>
<th>% of ILLs Mailed by 3 ARRCs</th>
<th>Cost of ILL Service</th>
<th>Cost per ILL Sent</th>
<th>Non-resident Walk-in Circulation (Estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANGOR</td>
<td>$747,735</td>
<td>459,308</td>
<td>18,644</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>$64,311</td>
<td>$3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND</td>
<td>$1,132,743</td>
<td>417,981</td>
<td>5,259</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$31,320</td>
<td>$5.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAINE STATE LIBRARY</td>
<td>10,272</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ILL = Interlibrary Loan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE II


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Library Budget</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND</td>
<td>61,572</td>
<td>$1,132,743</td>
<td>417,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAMINGHAM</td>
<td>65,113</td>
<td>746,843</td>
<td>554,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASHUA</td>
<td>67,865</td>
<td>641,000</td>
<td>547,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE III

SOURCES OF INTERLIBRARY LOANS RECEIVED BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 1981 AS REPORTED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ON THEIR ANNUAL REPORTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Library</th>
<th>No. of ILLs</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAINE STATE LIBRARY</td>
<td>5,957</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>10,279</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TO: Members of the Maine Library Commission

FROM: Edward V. Chenevert

SUBJECT: Mr. Robert C. Woodward's Memorandum of December 6, 1982

DATE: March 10, 1983

The central issue has always been how to properly fund the ever-increasing walk-in use of the facilities of the Portland Public Library by non-residents.

Earlier, it was not my intention to respond to the Woodward Memorandum of December 6th since many of the items were irrelevant: the size of Portland's budget vs Bangor, Nashua or Framingham; the number of interlibrary loans, etc.

Recent efforts to address the problem have included, 1) a request to be included in the Cumberland County Budget, 2) LD 360 which would have permitted reasonable non-resident user fees, and 3) additional state aid.

Mr. Woodward, however, chose to circulate his memo to the Education Committee of the Legislature, and thereby the press. According to the Portland Evening Express of February 11th:

"Woodward said yesterday that the bill was a step backwards from the philosophy of free access to libraries and hinted that if Portland's system were more efficient it wouldn't need the extra revenues. He presented the Education Committee with figures showing that Portland's costs were higher than other New England cities with comparable populations --namely Nashua, N.H., and Framingham, Mass.--and said that Bangor, with a wider circulation area, spent almost $400,000 less than Portland's $1.1 million annual budget."

Mr. Woodward took his figures, at-face-value, from the ALA Directory, 1982. In comparing budgets of any kind, consideration has to be given to items not included in a budget, as well as items that appear. Other adjustments have to be made, such as differences in pay scales, how many senior staff members are at the higher end of the scale, programs and services offered, number of branches, and other extensions, square foot comparisons of buildings, etc.

I have talked at length with both Framingham and Nashua library directors. Significant differences emerge:

PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 Monument Square • Portland, ME 04101 • 207/773-4761
Edward V. Chenevert, Executive Director
1) In Framingham: their current budget is $823,518. Not included is
$32,000 in state aid, $23,000 in interest from endowment investments, $60-$70,000
in electricity, nor other utilities, custodians, $38,000 in cleaning contract
for the library paid for by the city, benefits --city pays 75% of health insurance--
Social Security. In short, Framingham's budget is probably very comparable to
Portland's when all proper adjustments are made.

2) In Nashua: their current budget is $770,000. Not included are items
such as F.I.C.A. (6.7% of gross salaries), health coverage --city pays 85%--
workman's compensation insurance, $38,000 in fines, trust funds used to defray
operating costs, etc. Again when allowances are made for number of branches, pro-
grams and services, such as Talking Books, or etc., and many of the other factors
mentioned above, an entirely different picture would emerge.

Simply stated, as the Nashua librarian put it, "If there is to be disagreement
on an issue, then let the disagreement be on a professional level." It serves no
constructive purpose for Mr. Woodward to imply inefficiencies at the Portland Public
Library, nor rail at the size of our budget. I make no apologies for having a
lovely new library facility, nor that we possibly have more professional staff at
perhaps a higher salary level than Bangor, or any other such considerations.

For your information, I am enclosing a fact sheet on non-resident use, a list
of ARRC registrations by towns, registration figures as of 1/31/83.

Incidentally, it is interesting to watch trends: the number of active ARRC
cards is increasing steadily, month by month. In the year 1982, the number of
active ARRC cards increased by 44.6%. There has been a 17.9% increase in active
ARRC cards since the end of June, 1982.

In 1981, non-resident circulation was 21.6% of the total main library cir-
culation; in 1982, 23.1%; in 1983, it is running at 27.6%.
FACT SHEET
Non-Resident Use of the Portland Public Library

In a very real sense, the Portland Public Library has evolved into a regional library serving both Cumberland and York Counties under the Maine Regional Library System established in 1973.

As an Area Reference and Resource Center (ARRC), Portland provides interlibrary loan and back-up reference and information services to more than 100 Southern Maine Libraries: school, public, academic and special libraries.

Portland receives State aid for these services. Such aid, however, does not begin to support the heavy "free walk-in use" of the library by non-residents, especially all that is involved in "free borrowing privileges" for over 5,000 non-residents. Consider these facts:

1. A survey of walk-in use of the Main Library in September, 1982, showed that 31% were non-residents: 24% from Cumberland County, exclusive of Portland; 4% from York County; 1% from other Maine towns; 2% from out-of-state.

2. It is estimated that of the 446,890 people going through the exit gate of the Main Library last year, 138,536 were non-residents: 107,254 from Cumberland County, and 31,282 from beyond Cumberland County.

3. As of January 31, 1983, the library had 40,779 registered borrowers: 35,656 Portland cardholders; 5,094 District non-resident cardholders; 29 non-District, non-resident, cardholders.

4. During the calendar year, 1982, 68,200 materials (books, etc.) were loaned to non-residents.

5. Additionally, of the 39,615 "talking books" loaned to blind and handicapped readers, 26,146 were loaned to non-residents in Cumberland and York Counties.

6. Last year the library handled 12,177 telephone requests for information. Another survey in September, 1982, showed that 33% of the telephone requests were from non-residents.

In summary, State aid helps Portland in backing-up other libraries with interlibrary loan, etc., but does not address the problem of free walk-in use and free borrowing privileges by non-residents, nor the telephone requests by individual non-residents for information and reference assistance.
### ARRC Registrations by Town - New and Renewal

**Feb. 1, 1982 - Jan. 31, 1983**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumberland County</th>
<th>4,326</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgton</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Elizabeth</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casco</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorham</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Gloucester</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pownal</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarborough</td>
<td>370</td>
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<td>Sebago</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Portland</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steep Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westbrook</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windham</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>York County</th>
<th>763</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arundel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bar Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biddeford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buxton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Porpoise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwin Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennebunk</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennebunkport</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kezar Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Limington</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Moody</td>
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<td>Newfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ogunquit</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Orchard Beach</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saco</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springvale</td>
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<td>Waterboro</td>
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<td>Wells</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>York</td>
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<td>Lyman</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxford County</th>
<th>5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiram</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

**Summary:**
- 40,779 - Total Registered Borrowers
- 5,094 - ARRC Cards (12.5%)
- 4,309 - Cumberland County (10.6%)
- 757 - York County (1.9%)
- 1,438 - ARRC Renewals (28.2% of total active ARRC cards)

**Misc**
- Total ARRC Cards Issued to Date: 15,289
REGISTRATION FIGURES AS OF 1/31/83

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total ARRC cards issued to date</td>
<td>15,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland Registrations</td>
<td>35,656</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Active ARRC cards (1,438 renewals)</td>
<td>5,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Active Non-district</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Registration</td>
<td>40,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Cumberland County</td>
<td>4,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York County</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford (SAD 55)</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

- 10.6% of total registration
- 1.9% of total registration
AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CENTRAL MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT

The governing board of the __________________________ Library, located in the municipality of __________________________, county of __________________________, has voted that the library shall join in the CENTRAL MAINE LIBRARY DISTRICT, and requests that __________________________ (Librarian) (Trustee) (Lay Person) be designated a voting member of the District Council.

It is understood that a Library District is a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries voluntarily cooperating among themselves and with an Area Reference and Resource Center (Maine State Library); other types of libraries (e.g. school, academic, special) may also join the District.

It is also understood that a District Council shall serve as a policy-making body for the District, within the limits of its authority, which shall in no way diminish the power of the local governing board.

The governing board of each library which has agreed to participate in the District system shall appoint a representative to the District Council. The District Council shall elect a nine-member Executive Board which shall elect from its members appropriate officers as needed. The District Council shall meet at least twice a year.

(Signature of appointing authority)

(Typed or printed name)

(Date)

Name of designated representative ________________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________________________

Telephone ________________________________________________

2/11/97
Maine Regional Library System
Central Maine Library District Consultant

Job Description

The District Consultant for the Central Maine Library District provides professional library advisory services to the seven counties across the central part of the state. These services include orientation of new librarians and trustees to the Regional System; advice on collection management; and assistance with the development of library policies and personnel issues. The consultant also meets with groups of librarians throughout the district several times a year. There are currently eight of these cluster groups. The consultant sets agendas, arranges speakers and prepares the mailings for these meetings. In addition, the consultant is responsible for the organization and presentation of two council meetings annually. In cooperation with the other consultants, this person assists with the production of numerous workshops which provide continuing education for librarians in the district. Working with the Maine State Library and the Central Maine Library District Executive Board, the consultant provides technical assistance to cooperative interlibrary projects designed to promote equal access to library materials to all Maine people regardless of geographic location. This district consultant reports to the Director of Library Development.

Key Functions

1. Serves as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Central Maine Library District Board and is responsible for planning meeting agendas in cooperation with the executive board chairperson. Prepares and does all mailings for the board.

2. Helps the district executive board develop and refine a three year district plan of library service in order to meet the intent of the law establishing the regional system.

3. Coordinates services among libraries of all types to help meet the needs of library users.

4. Assists the Area Reference and Resource Center in planning for area reference and interlibrary loan service in order to refine and expand these library services to residents of the district.

5. Plans and organizes and/or coordinates library workshops designed to meet recognized needs of the district.

6. Maintains communication with district members in order to keep participating libraries aware of district and statewide library services.
7. Serves as professional library consultant to member libraries in order to meet specific needs.

8. Acts as the liaison between the Central Maine Library District, other districts and the Maine State Library in order to promote statewide library programs.

9. Attends library trustees meetings and offers consultant services as required.

10. Promotes public awareness of the district library services in order to inform the general public of services available.

11. Interprets library policies, objectives and facility plans to library groups, community groups, public officials and the general public in response to specific requests.

12. Monitors budget allocation and assures funds are properly expended.

13. Participates with other districts and the Maine State Library in preparing and revising the State Library's one and five year plans.

14. Prepares reports as required.

15. Studies the library needs of the district, makes recommendation to the district executive board and implements recommendations in order to improve service to present and potential library users.

16. Coordinates the book review program for the district, working cooperatively with the other two districts.

17. Oversees the preparation of books and the mailing of series of the Maine Humanities discussion programs to libraries throughout the state.

18. Maintains a collection of professional materials for use by librarians and trustees in the district.

Qualifications

A masters of library science;

a minimum of five years of experience in both school and public libraries;

a comprehensive understanding of organization of libraries, collection management, library policies and the laws effecting libraries in Maine;

an understanding of library construction and the standards involved in space planning;
the ability to work cooperatively with others;
the ability to train library personnel and trustees in library procedures;
the ability to speak well before all types and sizes of groups;
a knowledge of library automation and current trends in that area;
a basic knowledge of computers;
the ability to travel both in state and out of state; and
the ability to work flexible hours including evenings and Saturdays.
To: Maine Library Commission
From: Shirley Helfrich, SMLD Consultant
Date: September 3, 1997
Subject: Maine Regional Library System 25th Anniversary

BACKGROUND
Public Law 626 “An Act Creating Regional Library Systems” was approved by the Governor of Maine on July 5, 1973. This act established the Maine Regional Library System, the Maine Library Commission, Library Districts, District Councils, Area Reference and Resource Centers, and District Consultants. The Act also included an appropriation from the General Fund for the purpose of creating regional library systems.

PROPOSAL
A celebration of this occasion is proposed with the following goals:
1) to document the history of the Maine Regional Library System’s first 25 years
2) to make the public more aware of the System’s services
3) to create a forum for discussing the future of the System

IDEAS
The following ideas were suggested by various committees and individuals as objectives for the above goals:
1) Declare a statewide amnesty week
2) Letters to the editor with congratulations
3) Traveling exhibit on libraries and library services
4) Contest “What My Library Means to Me”
5) Sell promotional items to libraries and/or general public
6) Statewide campaign to promote library card at local libraries
7) Celebrate interlibrary loan
8) Publish a history of the Maine Regional Library System (print or AV formats)
9) Proclamation by the Governor
10) Statewide Open Houses in selected libraries
11) Tie in with sports teams (Sea Dogs, Black Bears, etc.)
12) Television/radio shows
13) Announce names of outstanding Maine library supporters
14) Invite comments from Maine organizations/individuals about the future of the system

PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS

September 3, 1997 – Report to Commission
October 31, 1997 – Report at Joint Council Meeting & survey membership
July 1998 to June 1999 – Conduct activities and events

NEXT STEPS
Form a Planning Committee consisting of no more than 15 persons representing the following organizations: Maine Library Commission, District Consultants, District Executive Boards, Library Public Relations Committees, at large (public relations agencies, media).
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Hi Gary,
Are you still able to make the April 2nd meeting re: 25th Anniversary?
Below is tentative agenda for meeting and tentative schedule of events. Also
am sending as word attachment -- I hope! Does this look OK?
Shirley

Together for 25
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Maine's Regional Library System
Steering Committee Meeting
April 2, 1998

Agenda

Introductions
Purpose of Celebration
Schedule of Events
Budget/Funding
Steering Committee Communication
Title/Logo/Colors
Spring Council Meetings
Handouts
Announcements
Publicity to Librarians and to the Public
Web site
Posters
Media
Other
Next Meeting

Schedule
"TOGETHER FOR 25"
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Maine's Regional Library System
[colors: turquoise and silver]

July 1998
Regional Library System Web Site
Governor's Proclamation & Legislative Sentiment
Local Celebrations
Logo completed

September 13-19, 1998
Open Houses
Announce Essay Contest "What My Library Means to Grades 3-6"
Special Events at ARRCs

Fall Council Meetings Update

January 1999
Bookstore Events

Spring 1999
Book Discussions

Spring Council Meetings History of the Regional System [print? Video?]
Public Forums re: MRLS Future Plans
April 11-17, 1999  Essay Contest Winners Announced
Presentation of Quilt to Maine State Library

Summer 1999  Statewide Summer Reading Programs
Block Bookings of Performers

No date set  Library Exhibits  [library photos, other]
Promotional Items

-the end-
News Release

“Regional Library System Celebrates 25th Anniversary”

Libraries in more than 300 Maine cities and towns will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Maine’s Regional Library System from July 1, 1998 through the summer of 1999. The statewide celebration will include open houses, exhibits, special children’s events, and reading discussion programs in public, school, and academic libraries in many of these communities.

Established in July 1973, the Regional Library System includes almost 1,000 libraries of all types — public, school, academic, and special. The Regional System provides access to a wide range of information services for all Maine’s citizens. Over 50% of Maine’s population are registered library users — a figure higher than the enrollment in all public and academic schools combined.

A major benefit of the system is Interlibrary Loan. Before 1973, readers had access only to books and information in their local libraries. Under the Regional Library System, local librarians can request items from other libraries. Usually the materials are shipped directly to the requesting library at no charge to the local user. According to State Librarian J. Gary Nichols, “Over the past 25 years 1 1/2 million books have been shared through the Regional Library System’s Interlibrary Loan program. Everyone wanting books and information benefits. Users include home schoolers, adults engaged in continuing education, local businesses, parents, people seeking medical information, and people reading for pleasure. Maine is among the top five states in the nation for the number of books borrowed on Interlibrary Loan.”

For 25 years, the Regional Library System has also coordinated resources which can be shared by local libraries. Large print books and collections of videos have been rotated to local libraries. Multiple copies of books have been supplied to local discussion programs in public libraries from Kittery to Calais.

Additionally, the Regional Library System provides services which help local libraries operate more efficiently and effectively. Systemwide cooperatives provide larger discounts on books, equipment, furniture, and binding services than local libraries could obtain on their own. Freeport Community Library Director Kay Haines says, “We are able to buy more books for our new library through the regional system’s book vendor because of the bigger discount. The service has been excellent. We’ve used the statewide vendor for four years and never had a problem.”

District Consultants in the three Regional Library System offices provide professional help to any librarian who requests it, a service particularly important in a rural state. These Consultants offer library staff and trustees on site help with such topics as building construction, collection development, and long range planning. Linda Hayman from the Ricker Memorial Library in Poland states, “Thanks to the Maine Regional Library System District Consultants, there is always someone to turn to for information, advice, and support. There has never been a time when a question has not been answered in a meaningful, timely and pleasant way.”

And the Regional Library System offers continuing education through statewide and regional workshops about current issues such as technology, management, and methods to better serve the public.

Throughout Maine, libraries will be offering special programs to celebrate the Regional Library System. Check with libraries near you for details.

[Add your local library events]
The 25th Anniversary of the Maine Regional Library System officially takes place July 5, 1998 exactly 25 years after legislation was approved by Governor Curtis. Enclosed are some ideas to assist Maine librarians, trustees, and Friends plan celebrations for the entire year starting in July 1998. Please share these ideas with staff, Friends and Board members.

A Steering Committee has been formed to coordinate statewide events. These events are described in the material enclosed. Your ideas and local resources may offer many other opportunities for celebrating. Our major goal is to spread the word about regional and local library services.

We hope you will keep a record of events at your library on the enclosed “Evaluation and Reporting Form” to be returned by July 10, 1999 to the Southern Maine Library District. These sheets will be used for media releases and to help libraries plan their own anniversary celebrations in years to come.

Congratulations to everyone for 25 years of library cooperation in the great State of Maine!

Steering Committee: Marilyn Clark, Director, Turner Memorial Library, Presque Isle, mcclark@presqueisle.lib.me.us; Bonnie Collins, CMLD Consultant, Maine State Library, Augusta, bonniec@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Benita Davis, NMLD Consultant, Bangor Public Library, benitad@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Deborah Davis, Sedomocha Middle School, Dover Foxcroft, DDavis@acserv.Foxcroft.PVT.K12.ME.US; Pat Fowler, retired Director, Witherle Memorial Library, Castine, pfowler@hypernet.com; Inese Gruber, Director, Windham Public Library, igruber@windham.lib.me.us; Shirley Helfrich, SMLD Consultant, Portland Public Library, helfrich@portland.lib.me.us; J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian, Maine State Library, Augusta, gary.nichols@state.me.us; Nick Noyes, Librarian, Maine Historical Society, Portland, nnoyes@mainehistory.org; Melissa Orth, Children’s Librarian, Lithgow Public Library, Augusta, morth@lithgow.lib.me.us; Valerie Osborne, Director, Old Town Public Library, vao@old-town.lib.me.us; Steve Podgajny, Director, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, spodgajny@curtislibrary.com; Cindy Jennings, Children’s Librarian, Orono Public Library, cjenning@maine.edu; Rachel Quenk, Children’s Librarian, Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth, rquenk@thomas.lib.me.us
Celebrating 25 Years of Service
1973 - 1998
Maine's Regional Library System

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND
Public Law 626 An Act Creating Regional Library Systems was approved by Governor Curtis on July 5, 1973. This Act established the Maine Regional Library System, the Maine Library Commission, Library Districts, District Councils, Area Reference and Resource Centers, and District Consultants. The Act also included an appropriation from the General Fund for the purpose of creating regional library systems.

GOALS of the CELEBRATION
1) To document the history of the Maine Regional Library System's (MRLS) first 25 years
2) To make the public more aware of the System's services through events, exhibits, the media, promotional items, and campaigns
3) To create a forum for discussing the future of the System by soliciting ideas from Maine organizations, librarians, trustees, Friends, and members of the public

ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUALS
1) Declare a statewide amnesty week
2) Send letters of congratulations to local newspapers
3) Organize a traveling exhibit about libraries and library services
5) Sell 25th anniversary promotional items to libraries and/or general public
6) Develop a statewide campaign to promote library card at local libraries
7) Publicize regional library system accomplishments in newspapers, TV, and radio
8) Enlist the support of the Governor through a proclamation, open house, etc.
9) Hold Library Open Houses in selected libraries September 13-19, 1998
10) Tie in with sports teams (Sea Dogs, Black Bears, etc.)
11) Announce names of outstanding Maine library supporters
12) Coordinate a statewide summer reading program and performer block booking for 1999
13) Establish a Maine Regional Library System home page
14) Conduct a statewide book discussion series
15) Conduct a Festival of Books for Young People
16) Develop cooperative activities with local bookstores

PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS
July 1998
Regional Library Web Site opens
Govemor's Proclamation
Local Library Celebrations

Aug. 18-20
Bangor Public Library Open House

Sept. 13-19
Local Library Open Houses
Announce Essay Contest for Grades 3-6 "What My Library Means to Me"
Update of events at District Council Meetings

Fall
Announce Essay Contest Winners [Children's Book Week]

Spring 1999
Book Discussions at Local Libraries
Publication of MRLS History [distribute at Spring District Council Meetings]
Public Forums about Future MRLS Plans

April 11-17
Presentation of Quilt to Maine State Library [National Library Week]

Summer
Statewide Summer Reading Programs
Performer Block Booking for Children's Programs

July
Return Evaluation & Reporting Form

No date set
Library Exhibits; Sale of Promotional Items (mugs, T-shirts, etc.);
Cooperative Programming and Events with Local Bookstores (antiquarian & new books)

Further information: District Library Offices - Portland 871-1766, Augusta 287-5620, Bangor 947-8336
Statewide Open Houses

Week of September 13-19, 1998

Statewide Open Houses offer each library a means to celebrate in a way that suits them best and most conveniently. Recognizing that libraries are all different in their hours open and staffing, we leave it up to the individual libraries to decide on times best for them and any special plans.

An Open House may be as simple as offering a few refreshments (perhaps Friends could help out), giving out some bookmarks, or it could be more formally planned, perhaps a special program or speaker. It could be held for just a couple of hours or a full day. We encourage libraries to publicize locally through their community newspapers, flyers, perhaps send invitations to selected individuals, etc. School libraries might want to coordinate with the Open House night for parents. ALA promotes September as Library Card Sign Up Month so that could be a tie in as well.

We would like all libraries to come up with a time during that week that they would be willing to hold an Open House and report it so we can come up with a statewide schedule of who is participating and when.

Publicizing this could be done by several means:

- Districtly Speaking Regional Library System Newsletter
- Maine Memo
- Listserv
- Local News Releases

It would be best if all libraries responded to one source directly. E-mail would be preferable, but mail, fax or phone would be fine as well. Please note your name, your library, the date and time, and any special event you may have planned. Deadline for notification is August 14th. Send info to:

Inese Gruber, 25th Steering Committee
Windham Public Library
217 Windham Center Road
Windham, ME 04062
(207) 892-1908 (Tel)
(207) 892-1915 (Fax)
inguber@windham.lib.me.us (e-mail)

Thank you so much and let the celebrations begin!
Bookstores and Libraries

Booksellers and librarians are natural allies in the community of ideas. Your local bookshop may want to join in a community celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Regional Library System. Perhaps a bookstore will help sponsor a reading program at your library by offering a discount on book purchases by participants. Or local booksellers might offer a discount day for users of your library. This list is not all-inclusive, but we hope it will encourage mutual support between local bookstores and local libraries in Maine.

NEW ENGLAND BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION
MAINE MEMBERS 1998

Annies Book Stop, Freeport
Annies Book Stop, Portland
Bates College Bookstore, Lewiston
Botts Bookstore, Bangor
Blue Hill Books, Blue Hill
Bookland, Biddeford
Bookland, Brunswick
Bookland Downtown, Portland
Bookland, Lewiston
Bookland Mill Creek, South Portland
Bookland, Saco
Bookland, Wells
Bookmarces Bookstore and Caf, Bangor
The Book Review, Falmouth
Books, Etc., Portland
Books Ink, Ogunquit
Books, Lines & Thinkers, Rangeley
Books-N-Things, Oxford
Bookworm, South Berwick
Borders, Bangor
Borders Books & Music, Portland
Bowdoin Bookstore, Brunswick
Briar Patch, Bangor
Bridgton Books, Inc., Bridgton
C. Gifford New & Used Books, Union
Colby College Bookstore, Waterville
Country Cottage Gift Gallery & Bookstore, Fort Kent
Devaney, Doak & Garrett, Booksellers, Farmington
Drop Me a Line, Portland
Ecopelagicon, Rangeley
Fertile Mind Bookstore, Belfast
Gulf of Maine Books, Brunswick
Harbour Books, Yarmouth
Kennebunk Book Port, Kennebunkport
Knight Equestrian Books, Edgecomb
Maine Audubon Nature Store, Falmouth
Maine Coast Book Shop, Damariscotta
Mr. Paperback, Bangor
Mr. Paperback, Ellsworth
MTS Book Warehouse, Portland
Owl and Turtle Bookshop, Camden
Patricia Buck Emporium, Kingfield
Patricia Ledlie, Bookseller, Buckfield
Port in a Storm Bookstore, Mt. Desert
Reading Corner, Rockland
Second Read, Rockland
Shermans Book and Stationery Store, Boothbay Harbor
Taras Books and Gifts, Wiscasset
Thomaston Books and Prints, Thomaston
Toys and Tales, Kennebunkport
University of ME Bookstore, Farmington
University of ME Bookstore, Orono
Upper Story Bookshop, Springvale
USM Bookstore, Portland
Yorks Bookstore, Houlton
Maine's Regional Library System

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

1973 - 1998

TO: Maine Librarians (Public, High School, Post-Secondary, and Special)
FROM: J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian
RE: Celebrating 25 Years of Service
DATE: June 1998

The 25th Anniversary of the Maine Regional Library System officially takes place July 5, 1998 exactly 25 years after legislation was approved by Governor Curtis. Enclosed are some ideas to assist Maine librarians, trustees, and Friends plan celebrations for the entire year starting in July 1998. Please share these ideas with staff, Friends and Board members.

A Steering Committee has been formed to coordinate statewide events. These events are described in the material enclosed. Your ideas and local resources may offer many other opportunities for celebrating. Our major goal is to spread the word about regional and local library services.

We hope you will keep a record of events at your library on the enclosed “Evaluation and Reporting Form” to be returned by July 10, 1999 to the Southern Maine Library District. These sheets will be used for media releases and to help libraries plan their own anniversary celebrations in years to come.

Congratulations to everyone for 25 years of library cooperation in the great State of Maine!

Steering Committee: Marilyn Clark, Director, Turner Memorial Library, Presque Isle, mgclark@presqueisle.lib.me.us; Bonnie Collins, CMLD Consultant, Maine State Library, Augusta, bonnie@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Benita Davis, NMLD Consultant, Bangor Public Library, benitad@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Deborah Davis, NMLD Consultant, Bangor Public Library, benitad@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Benita Davis, NMLD Consultant, Bangor Public Library, benitad@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Deborah Davis, NMLD Consultant, Bangor Public Library, benitad@ursus3.ursus.maine.edu; Pat Fowler, retired Director, Witherle Memorial Library, Castine, pfowler@hypernet.com; Inese Gruber, Director, Windham Public Library, igruber@windham.lib.me.us; Shirley Helfrich, SMLD Consultant, Portland Public Library, helfrich@portland.lib.me.us; J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian, Maine State Library, Augusta, gary.nichols@state.me.us; Nick Noyes, Librarian, Maine Historical Society, Portland, nnoyes@mainehistory.org; Melissa Orth, Children's Librarian, Lithgow Public Library, Augusta, morth@lithgow.lib.me.us; Valerie Osborne, Director, Old Town Public Library, vao@old-town.lib.me.us; Steve Podgajny, Director, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, spodgajny@curtislibrary.com; Cindy Jennings, Children's Librarian, Orono Public Library, cjennings@maine.edu; Rachel Quenk, Children's Librarian, Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth, rquenk@thomas.lib.me.us


Maine State Library, 64 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, Tel. 287-5600, FAX 287-5615
Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND
Public Law 626 An Act Creating Regional Library Systems was approved by Governor Curtis on July 5, 1973. This Act established the Maine Regional Library System, the Maine Library Commission, Library Districts, District Councils, Area Reference and Resource Centers, and District Consultants. The Act also included an appropriation from the General Fund for the purpose of creating regional library systems.

GOALS of the CELEBRATION
1) To document the history of the Maine Regional Library System’s (MRLS) first 25 years
2) To make the public more aware of the System’s services through events, exhibits, the media, promotional items, and campaigns
3) To create a forum for discussing the future of the System by soliciting ideas from Maine organizations, librarians, trustees, Friends, and members of the public

ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUALS
1) Declare a statewide amnesty week
2) Send letters of congratulations to local newspapers
3) Organize a traveling exhibit about libraries and library services
5) Sell 25th anniversary promotional items to libraries and/or general public
6) Develop a statewide campaign to promote library card at local libraries
7) Publicize regional library system accomplishments in newspapers, TV, and radio
8) Enlist the support of the Governor through a proclamation, open house, etc.
9) Hold Library Open Houses in selected libraries September 13-19, 1998
10) Tie in with sports teams (Sea Dogs, Black Bears, etc.)
11) Announce names of outstanding Maine library supporters
12) Coordinate a statewide summer reading program and performer block booking for 1999
13) Establish a Maine Regional Library System home page
14) Conduct a statewide book discussion series
15) Conduct a Festival of Books for Young People
16) Develop cooperative activities with local bookstores

PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS
July 1998
Regional Library Web Site opens
Governor’s Proclamation
Local Library Celebrations

Aug. 18-20
Bangor Public Library Open House

Sept. 13-19
Local Library Open Houses
Announce Essay Contest for Grades 3-6 “What My Library Means to Me”

Fall
Update of events at District Council Meetings

Nov. 15-21
Announce Essay Contest Winners [Children’s Book Week]

Spring 1999
Book Discussions at Local Libraries
Publication of MRLS History [distribute at Spring District Council Meetings]
Public Forums about Future MRLS Plans

April 11-17
Presentation of Quilt to Maine State Library [National Library Week]

Summer
Statewide Summer Reading Programs
Performer Block Booking for Children’s Programs

July
Return Evaluation & Reporting Form

No date set
Library Exhibits, Sale of Promotional Items (mugs, T-shirts, etc.);
Cooperative Programming and Events with Local Bookstores (antiquarian & new books)

Further information: District Library Offices - Portland 871-1766, Augusta 287-5620, Bangor 947-8336
News Release

“Regional Library System Celebrates 25th Anniversary”

Libraries in more than 300 Maine cities and towns will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Maine’s Regional Library System from July 1, 1998 through the summer of 1999. The statewide celebration will include open houses, exhibits, special children’s events, and reading discussion programs in public, school, and academic libraries in many of these communities.

Established in July 1973, the Regional Library System includes almost 1,000 libraries of all types — public, school, academic, and special. The Regional System provides access to a wide range of information services for all Maine’s citizens. Over 50% of Maine’s population are registered library users — a figure higher than the enrollment in all public and academic schools combined.

A major benefit of the system is Interlibrary Loan. Before 1973, readers had access only to books and information in their local libraries. Under the Regional Library System, local librarians can request items from other libraries. Usually the materials are shipped directly to the requesting library at no charge to the local user. According to State Librarian J. Gary Nichols, “Over the past 25 years 1 1/2 million books have been shared through the Regional Library System’s Interlibrary Loan program. Everyone wanting books and information benefits. Users include home schoolers, adults engaged in continuing education, local businesses, parents, people seeking medical information, and people reading for pleasure. Maine is among the top five states in the nation for the number of books borrowed on Interlibrary Loan.”

For 25 years, the Regional Library System has also coordinated resources which can be shared by local libraries. Large print books and collections of videos have been rotated to local libraries. Multiple copies of books have been supplied to local discussion programs in public libraries from Kittery to Calais.

Additionally, the Regional Library System provides services which help local libraries operate more efficiently and effectively. Systemwide cooperatives provide larger discounts on books, equipment, furniture, and binding services than local libraries could obtain on their own. Freeport Community Library Director Kay Haines says, “We are able to buy more books for our new library through the regional system’s book vendor because of the bigger discount. The service has been excellent. We’ve used the statewide vendor for four years and never had a problem.”

District Consultants in the three Regional Library System offices provide professional help to any librarian who requests it, a service particularly important in a rural state. These Consultants offer library staff and trustees on site help with such topics as building construction, collection development, and long range planning. Linda Hayman from the Ricker Memorial Library in Poland states, “Thanks to the Maine Regional Library System District Consultants, there is always someone to turn to for information, advice, and support. There has never been a time when a question has not been answered in a meaningful, timely and pleasant way.”

And the Regional Library System offers continuing education through statewide and regional workshops about current issues such as technology, management, and methods to better serve the public.

Throughout Maine, libraries will be offering special programs to celebrate the Regional Library System. Check with libraries near you for details.

[Add your local library events]
Statewide Open Houses

*Week of September 13-19, 1998*

Statewide Open Houses offer each library a means to celebrate in a way that suits them best and most conveniently. Recognizing that libraries are all different in their hours open and staffing, we leave it up to the individual libraries to decide on times best for them and any special plans.

An Open House may be as simple as offering a few refreshments (perhaps Friends could help out), giving out some bookmarks, or it could be more formally planned, perhaps a special program or speaker. It could be held for just a couple of hours or a full day. We encourage libraries to publicize locally through their community newspapers, flyers, perhaps send invitations to selected individuals, etc. School libraries might want to coordinate with the Open House night for parents. ALA promotes September as Library Card Sign Up Month so that could be a tie-in as well.

We would like all libraries to come up with a time during that week that they would be willing to hold an Open House and report it so we can come up with a statewide schedule of who is participating and when.

Publicizing this could be done by several means:

- *Districtly Speaking* Regional Library System Newsletter
- *Maine Memo*
- Listserv
- Local News Releases

It would be best if all libraries responded to one source directly. E-mail would be preferable, but mail, fax or phone would be fine as well. Please note your name, your library, the date and time, and any special event you may have planned. Deadline for notification is August 14th. Send info to:

*Inese Gruber, 25th Steering Committee*

*Windham Public Library*

*217 Windham Center Road*

*Windham, ME 04062*

*(207) 892-1908 (Tel)*

*(207) 892-1915 (Fax)*

*igruber@windham.lib.me.us (e-mail)*

Thank you so much and let the celebrations begin!
Celebrating 25 Years of Service
1973 - 1998
Maine's Regional Library System

Bookstores and Libraries

Booksellers and librarians are natural allies in the community of ideas. Your local bookshop may want to join in a community celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Regional Library System. Perhaps a bookstore will help sponsor a reading program at your library by offering a discount on book purchases by participants. Or local booksellers might offer a discount day for users of your library. This list is not all-inclusive, but we hope it will encourage mutual support between local bookstores and local libraries in Maine.

NEW ENGLAND BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION
MAINE MEMBERS 1998

Annies Book Stop, Freeport
Annies Book Stop, Portland
Bates College Bookstore, Lewiston
Betts Bookstore, Bangor
Blue Hill Books, Blue Hill
Bookland, Biddeford
Bookland, Brunswick
Bookland Downtown, Portland
Bookland, Lewiston
Bookland Mill Creek, South Portland
Bookland, Saco
Bookland, Wells
Bookmarc's Bookstore and Café, Bangor
The Book Review, Falmouth
Books, Etc., Portland
Books Ink, Ogunquit
Books, Lines & Thinkers, Rangeley
Books-N-Things, Oxford
Bookworm, South Berwick
Borders, Bangor
Borders Books & Music, Portland
Bowdoin Bookstore, Brunswick
Briar Patch, Bangor
Bridgton Books, Inc., Bridgton
C. Gifford New & Used Books, Union
Colby College Bookstore, Waterville
Country Cottage Gift Gallery & Bookstore, Fort Kent
Devaney, Doak & Garrett, Booksellers, Farmington
Drop Me a Line, Portland
Ecopelagicon, Rangeley
Fertile Mind Bookstore, Belfast
Gulf of Maine Books, Brunswick
Harbour Books, Yarmouth
Kennebunk Book Port, Kennebunkport
Knight Equestrian Books, Edgecomb
Maine Audubon Nature Store, Falmouth
Maine Coast Book Shop, Damariscotta
Mr. Paperback, Bangor
Mr. Paperback, Ellsworth
MTS Book Warehouse, Portland
Owl and Turtle Bookshop, Camden
Patricia Buck Emporium, Kingfield
Patricia Ledlie, Bookseller, Buckfield
Port in a Storm Bookstore, Mt. Desert
Reading Corner, Rockland
Second Read, Rockland
Shermans Book and Stationery Store, Boothbay Harbor
Taras Books and Gifts, Wiscasset
Thomaston Books and Prints, Thomaston
Toys and Tales, Kennebunkport
University of ME Bookstore, Farmington
University of ME Bookstore, Orono
Upper Story Bookshop, Springvale
USM Bookstore, Portland
Yorks Bookstore, Houlton
1999 Statewide Summer Reading Program

Read! A Maine Event

We are currently in the planning stages for this program. So far we have:

- A theme, instructions, and sample press releases
- Maine illustrator Melissa Sweet will design the reading log, clip art, certificate, and a reproducible bookmark
- Maine performers available to do block booking at discount cost to libraries

This program is optional but we hope that every library will participate in this program. Read: A Maine Event can be adapted to your library's needs.

The committee appreciates input. Please email or write a committee member listed below to share your thoughts, ideas, and questions.

Cynthia Jennings, Orono Public Library, cjennings@maine.maine.edu
Rachel Quenk, Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth, rquenk@thomas.lib.me.us
Melissa Orth, Lithgow Public Library, Augusta, morth@lithgow.lib.me.us
Celebrating 25 Years of Service
1973 - 1998
Maine's Regional Library System

Together for 25
1973 - 1998
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Maine’s Regional Library System
# Evaluation and Reporting Form

Please try to keep a log of events and comments and return by July 10, 1999 to the Southern Maine Library District, 5 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101.

<table>
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<tr>
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OTHER

COMMENTS

LIBRARY NAME _________________________________

YOUR NAME _________________________________

DAYTIME TEL. ________________________________

EMAIL _________________________________

(fold & mail)
Maine State Library
64 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #8
AUGUSTA, MAINE

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
64 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0064

Maine & Regional Library System

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

1973 1998
Maine Regional Library System 25th Anniversary
July 1998

BACKGROUND
Public Law 626 “An Act Creating Regional Library Systems” was approved by the Governor of Maine on July 5, 1973. This act established the Maine Regional Library System, the Maine Library Commission, Library Districts, District Councils, Area Reference and Resource Centers, and District Consultants. The Act also included an appropriation from the General Fund for the purpose of creating regional library systems.

PROPOSAL
A celebration of this occasion is proposed with the following goals:
1) to document the history of the Maine Regional Library System’s first 25 years in print and/or AV formats
2) to make the public more aware of the System’s services through events, exhibits, the media, promotional items, campaigns, etc.
3) to create a forum for discussing the future of the System by soliciting ideas from Maine organizations, librarians, trustees, Friends, and members of the public

IDEAS
The following ideas for the public celebration (goal #2 above) were suggested by various committees and individuals:
1) Declare a statewide amnesty week
2) Letters to the editor with congratulations
3) Traveling exhibit on libraries and library services and books
4) Contest “What My Library Means to Me”
5) Sell 25th anniversary promotional items to libraries and/or general public
6) Statewide campaign to promote library card at local libraries
7) Publicize regional library system accomplishments in newspapers, TV, and radio
8) Enlist the support of the Governor through a proclamation, open house, etc.
9) Hold Library Open Houses in selected libraries during a designated week
10) Tie in with sports teams (Sea Dogs, Black Bears, etc.)
11) Announce names of 25 outstanding Maine library supporters
12) Coordinate a statewide summer reading program for 1998
13) Establish a Maine Regional Library System home page
14) Conduct a statewide book discussion series
15) Ask each person visiting his/her local library to donate a penny during a designated week and send pennies to Maine State Library to buy books
16) Conduct a Festival of Books for Young People

SUGGESTED THEMES
1) “Look how we’ve grown!”
2) “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”
3) “No man is an island”
4) “Our team supports your team”

PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS
September 3, 1997 – Report to Commission
October 31, 1997 – Report at Joint Council Meeting & survey membership
July 1998 to June 1999 – Conduct activities and events

10/20/97
MAINE LIBRARIES -- 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION
A Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Regional Library system

ACTIVITIES

HISTORY OF THE REGIONAL SYSTEM
A booklet with photos, ads, lists of commission members, consultants, ARRC directors, history of Regional System highlights.
Committee chairs
CMLD
NMLD Marilyn Clark, Turner Memorial Library, Presque Isle
SMLD

OPEN HOUSES SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 1998
Scheduled two-hour open houses in public, school, academic, and special libraries. Librarians would voluntarily sign up, publicize their open houses locally, and conduct activities (door prizes, food, local performances, contests, art displays, Banned Books displays, displays of books about Maine or libraries, etc.). Statewide publicity also. Poster with list of scheduled open houses.
Committee chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD Inese Gruber, Windham Public Library

STATEWIDE SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR 1999
A theme, promotional items and performers available for any libraries wishing to participate.
Committee chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD Rachel Quenk, Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth

MAINE JOURNALISM AWARD
The Maine Library Association's first annual award presented for exemplary media coverage of library news.
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD
GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION
A proclamation to be presented to the Maine State Librarian. Possible date: July 1998 and taken to each Fall District Council Meeting.
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD

BOOKSTORE EVENTS
Programs, displays, and discounts for libraries, possibly during January 1999. Displays could consist of books about Maine, by Maine authors, or about libraries and librarians. Borders in South Portland is interested in this event.
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES
Statewide series of book discussions, possibly concerning libraries and librarians. Could be conducted in cooperation with bookstore chain or Maine Humanities Council.
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD

QUILT
A specially designed quilt depicting libraries and library-related ideas, completed by individual quilting associations in Maine. Quilt to hang in the Maine State Library and be available for exhibit in other libraries. To be completed by National Library Week 1999.
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD
Valerie Osborne, Old Town Public Library

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM WEB SITE
A web site with information about regional system activities, libraries, books and movies about libraries and librarians, calendar events, etc. To begin spring 1998
Committee Chairs
CMLD
NMLD
SMLD

January 22, 1998
MAINE LIBRARIES -- 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION
A Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the
Maine Regional Library system

ACTIVITIES

HISTORY OF THE REGIONAL SYSTEM
A booklet with photos, ads, lists of commission members, consultants, ARRC directors, history of Regional System highlights.
Committee chairs
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Poster with list of scheduled open houses.
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Committee Chairs
  CMLD
  NMLD
  SMLD

January 22, 1998
MAINE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Maine Regional Library System (MRLS) was established by the Maine Legislature (Public Law 626) in 1973 and is administered by the Maine State Library. Founded against a backdrop of insufficient information resources widely dispersed among many small libraries, its purpose was stated as "...organizing library resources and services for research, information, and recreation to improve statewide library service and to serve collectively the entire population of the state..."

Today the Regional Library System consists of nearly 500 public, school, academic and special libraries working together to improve local library service by sharing existing collection resources. Libraries are organized in three districts (Northeastern, Central, Southern), and consult an Area Reference and Resource Center (ARRC) for their district as the primary source for interlibrary loan and reference backup services. The ARRCs -- the Maine State Library, Bangor Public Library and Portland Public Library - are the largest public, non-academic libraries in Maine. The Regional Library System has been distinguished by nationally high per capita levels of interlibrary borrowing. Approximately 40,000, mostly monographic items are supplied from ARRC collections to local requesting libraries every year.

From it's beginnings, the ARRCs have maintained strong relations with the University of Maine System and other academic libraries in Maine. Arrangements have been worked out whereby interlibrary loan requests that cannot be met from ARRC collection are referred to a University System library. This cooperative relationship culminated with the addition of holdings from two of the ARRC libraries (Maine State and Bangor Public) to the URSUS database.
Maine’s Regional Library System: A History

by

Robert C. Woodward

February, 1999
Introduction

The following paper was presented by Robert C. Woodward on February 24, 1999, at the Bangor Public Library during a meeting of the Executive Boards from the Central, Northeastern, and Southern Maine Library Districts. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the history and future of the Maine Regional Library System. Mr. Woodward was the first Chair of the Maine Library Commission, and a former director of the Bangor Public Library.
Twenty-five years ago this spring the Regional Library Systems Act began to take effect. Over time it succeeded in its aim to widen and improve access to library services for all Maine residents. Today, students in the smallest high schools and users of the most remote public libraries can plug into the resources of the largest public libraries in the state and draw on the services of their professional staffs.

The Regional Library Systems Act was enacted in 1973 after a long process that began in the 1950's. The American Library Association adopted a guide for minimum standards for public libraries in 1956 calling on all public libraries to join cooperative library systems, acknowledging that few public libraries can independently meet all the demands placed on them. By this time several states had developed regional systems and they worked well and continue to do so.

Ruth Hazelton became Maine State Librarian in 1958,
coming here from Massachusetts where regional library systems were being put in place. Working with the officers of the Maine Library Association, she asked Marion Moshier, retired head of Library Extension for the New York State Library, to survey Maine libraries and make recommendations for library development in Maine.

Moshier's 1962 report proposed that Maine consider forming 4 to 6 "District Library Systems", each based on populations of 200,000 and each centered on a strong public library. (The American Library Association minimum standards for systems called for a population base of at least 150,000 and a strong resource center with at least 100,000 non-fiction titles.) Moshier's report also called for a staff of 6 professionals and 12 non-professionals in each District. This recommendation would have more than doubled the payroll of the State Library; it was seldom mentioned again. Moshier also called for a District borrower's card for use in any member library.

At a Governor's Conference for Library Trustees held in 1963, Ruth Hazelton repeated her call for a statewide system "which provides every citizen, regardless of where he lives, with equal access to good library service". The featured speaker at the Conference, Grace Stevenson, argued that quality library service for any but the very largest library requires membership in a co-operative library network.

In 1969, following the recommendation of the Planning and Development Committee of the Maine Library Association and of the Maine Trustees Association, Governor Curtis appointed a Governor's Task Force to Study Library Services in Maine. Its report, Widening the Circle, Libraries for Tomorrow, appeared in 1971. The Task Force called for a new kind of library service standard in Maine where a library would set its goals and measure performance not only in terms of its own resources, but in terms of how readily it is able to bring together library users and library resources from anywhere.

Specifically, the Task Force recommended a statewide borrower's card, something that always comes up when a citizen's group looks at ways to widen and improve access to library services in Maine. They called for funding for improved interli-
and expanded services. The 250 who attended hearings around the state offered little advice on the matter of how many districts should be designated. In the end, the Advisory Committee left it to the new Library Commission to designate the district boundaries and the Area Reference and Resource Centers.

In the hearings there was some opposition to the regional concept. Opponents argued that local libraries would be submerged in the regional organization, losing autonomy, identity and even some local funding. One distinguished citizen prominent in Maine's cultural life, patiently pointed out that we were innocently creating the means for the state library bureaucrats to take control of local libraries. He and other opponents (only two appeared at the legislative hearings) were assured that the regional systems were designed not to govern libraries but to channel services to them.

About this time Ruth Hazelton retired. She had been a strong defender of local library autonomy and a champion of the regional concept. Her successor, Gary Nichols, has also shown the same concerns and his efforts have been a major factor in the success of the Regional Library Systems Act.

The Act passed the Legislature in June, 1973, and took effect in October. The Governor appointed members to the new Library Commission and they met for the first time in December, 1973. The first order of business was to designate the number and boundaries of the Districts. Some of the new Commission members had served on the Advisory Committee and it was unanimously agreed that three Districts, with nearly equal populations, based on the three strong collections of the Portland, Bangor and Maine State Library best met the criteria established by the American Library Association.

District Councils held their first meetings in the Spring of 1974 and by year's end Consultants had been hired in the Central and Southern Maine Library Districts. The three Area Reference and Resource Centers began interlibrary loan and reference support services at once and within a few years ILL activity doubled and then doubled again. In 1975 the Library Commission approved funding for OCLC access at the three
ARRCs. This farsighted recommendation by State Librarian Nichols meant that Portland and Bangor would be only the second and third public libraries in New England to tie into OCLC and it positioned Maine for major benefits in all areas of automation.

Within ten years Maine’s public and school libraries were generating over 40,000 interlibrary loans. (It is now over 50,000.) This put Maine among the top states nationally and first among New England states in interlibrary loan activity. Journalists, legislators, other lay people and even some librarians are quick to point out that Maine is a poor state with many small libraries; of course it has high ILL activity for just those reasons. Not so. The reasons are counter-intuitive. High ILL activity is characteristic of states with high levels of library expenditures and high levels of circulation - states such as Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Iowa and, yes, Maine, whose per capita expenditures and circulation activity are above the median for all states. Low levels of ILL activity are associated with states where per capita expenditures and circulation are low -

states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. The same correlations show up when we look at interlibrary loan activity within Maine. Libraries with the highest levels of per capita expenditures and circulation are almost always the libraries with the highest levels of interlibrary loan activity. The libraries in Hancock County, for instance, are among the heaviest users of the ILL network. Blue Hill, Bar Harbor, Castine, Ellsworth, Northeast, and Southwest Harbor also have the highest per capita expenditures among most of the libraries in their population groups.

The Regional Library Systems Act has worked remarkably well. Certainly the concerns about the loss of local autonomy have been put to rest. Users of local libraries and school libraries have improved access to library services when their librarians can tie into the collections and reference staffs of the Area Reference and Resource Centers. Local library staffs are better prepared through the support offered by the District Consultants. There is still some unfinished business - a statewide borrower’s card, for instance. Many libraries do not tie into the
system. They seldom use interlibrary loan services and they seldom call for reference help. What can be done to widen and improve access to library services for residents of those Maine towns?

Robert C. Woodward

February 17, 1999
Maine’s Regional Library System: A History

by

Robert C. Woodward

February, 1999
Introduction

The following paper was presented by Robert C. Woodward on February 24, 1999, at the Bangor Public Library during a meeting of the Executive Boards from the Central, Northeastern, and Southern Maine Library Districts. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the history and future of the Maine Regional Library System. Mr. Woodward was the first Chair of the Maine Library Commission, and a former director of the Bangor Public Library.
MAINE’S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Twenty-five years ago this spring the Regional Library Systems Act began to take effect. Over time it succeeded in its aim to widen and improve access to library services for all Maine residents. Today, students in the smallest high schools and users of the most remote public libraries can plug into the resources of the largest public libraries in the state and draw on the services of their professional staffs.

The Regional Library Systems Act was enacted in 1973 after a long process that began in the 1950's. The American Library Association adopted a guide for minimum standards for public libraries in 1956 calling on all public libraries to join cooperative library systems, acknowledging that few public libraries can independently meet all the demands placed on them. By this time several states had developed regional systems and they worked well and continue to do so.

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coming here from Massachusetts where regional library systems were being put in place. Working with the officers of the Maine Library Association, she asked Marion Moshier, retired head of Library Extension for the New York State Library, to survey Maine libraries and make recommendations for library development in Maine.

Moshier's 1962 report proposed that Maine consider forming 4 to 6 "District Library Systems", each based on populations of 200,000 and each centered on a strong public library. (The American Library Association minimum standards for systems called for a population base of at least 150,000 and a strong resource center with at least 100,000 non-fiction titles.) Moshier's report also called for a staff of 6 professionals and 12 non-professionals in each District. This recommendation would have more than doubled the payroll of the State Library; it was seldom mentioned again. Moshier also called for a District borrower's card for use in any member library.

At a Governor's Conference for Library Trustees held in 1963, Ruth Hazelton repeated her call for a statewide system "which provides every citizen, regardless of where he lives, with equal access to good library service". The featured speaker at the Conference, Grace Stevenson, argued that quality library service for any but the very largest library requires membership in a cooperative library network.

In 1969, following the recommendation of the Planning and Development Committee of the Maine Library Association and of the Maine Trustees Association, Governor Curtis appointed a Governor's Task Force to Study Library Services in Maine. Its report, *Widening the Circle, Libraries for Tomorrow*, appeared in 1971. The Task Force called for a new kind of library service standard in Maine where a library would set its goals and measure performance not only in terms of its own resources, but in terms of how readily it is able to bring together library users and library resources from anywhere.

Specifically, the Task Force recommended a statewide borrower's card, something that always comes up when a citizen's group looks at ways to widen and improve access to library services in Maine. They called for funding for improved interli-
brary loans, the development of a union catalog, more libraries in NELINET and statewide acquisitions and cataloging. The Task Force noted that many libraries that might benefit from the interlibrary loan system already in place made little use of it, claiming that they could fill most requests from their own collections. (As many as a third of all public libraries today make little or no use of the interlibrary loan service.)

The report of the Task Force earned wide attention inside and outside the library community. The Governor promptly appointed a special committee, the Maine Library Advisory Committee, to draw up legislation to establish regional library systems, create a commission to advise the Commissioner of Education on policy matters (the State Library was then a bureau in the Department of Education), and to recommend state funding levels.

By the beginning of the Legislative session in 1972-73 the Advisory Committee had its recommendations nearly ready. One big issue was in dispute: how many regional systems should it recommend for Maine? Should we have 8 regional systems or fewer than that or as many as 25? The proposal for 8 Districts, as they came to be called, was supported by those who were impressed by the State Planning Office division of the State into 8 planning and development districts. Others were taken by the argument of the Commissioner of Education that it would be a great idea to establish Districts in parallel with areas served by the 25 vocational and technical high schools.

The guidelines of the American Library Association and studies of library systems reported in library literature all called for systems - or Districts - to be based on populations of at least 200,000 with a central resource library holding at least 100,000 non-fiction titles. Only two of the 8 Districts proposed had a population base over 150,000 (one had only 65,000) and only three had a resource center with 100,000 non-fiction titles. The 25 District proposal had a kind of handsome symmetry but only one Advisory Committee member took it seriously.

Regional meetings were held around the state to discuss the proposed legislation. There was general approval of the idea of regional systems, consultant services, council representation
and expanded services. The 250 who attended hearings around the state offered little advice on the matter of how many districts should be designated. In the end, the Advisory Committee left it to the new Library Commission to designate the district boundaries and the Area Reference and Resource Centers.

In the hearings there was some opposition to the regional concept. Opponents argued that local libraries would be submerged in the regional organization, losing autonomy, identity and even some local funding. One distinguished citizen prominent in Maine's cultural life, patiently pointed out that we were innocently creating the means for the state library bureaucrats to take control of local libraries. He and other opponents (only two appeared at the legislative hearings) were assured that the regional systems were designed not to govern libraries but to channel services to them.

About this time Ruth Hazelton retired. She had been a strong defender of local library autonomy and a champion of the regional concept. Her successor, Gary Nichols, has also shown the same concerns and his efforts have been a major factor in the success of the Regional Library Systems Act.

The Act passed the Legislature in June, 1973, and took effect in October. The Governor appointed members to the new Library Commission and they met for the first time in December, 1973. The first order of business was to designate the number and boundaries of the Districts. Some of the new Commission members had served on the Advisory Committee and it was unanimously agreed that three Districts, with nearly equal populations, based on the three strong collections of the Portland, Bangor and Maine State Library best met the criteria established by the American Library Association.

District Councils held their first meetings in the Spring of 1974 and by year's end Consultants had been hired in the Central and Southern Maine Library Districts. The three Area Reference and Resource Centers began interlibrary loan and reference support services at once and within a few years ILL activity doubled and then doubled again. In 1975 the Library Commission approved funding for OCLC access at the three
ARRCs. This farsighted recommendation by State Librarian Nichols meant that Portland and Bangor would be only the second and third public libraries in New England to tie into OCLC and it positioned Maine for major benefits in all areas of automation.

Within ten years Maine's public and school libraries were generating over 40,000 interlibrary loans. (It is now over 50,000.) This put Maine among the top states nationally and first among New England states in interlibrary loan activity. Journalists, legislators, other lay people and even some librarians are quick to point out that Maine is a poor state with many small libraries; of course it has high ILL activity for just those reasons. Not so. The reasons are counter-intuitive. High ILL activity is characteristic of states with high levels of library expenditures and high levels of circulation - states such as Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Iowa and, yes, Maine, whose per capita expenditures and circulation activity are above the median for all states. Low levels of ILL activity are associated with states where per capita expenditures and circulation are low - states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. The same correlations show up when we look at interlibrary loan activity within Maine. Libraries with the highest levels of per capita expenditures and circulation are almost always the libraries with the highest levels of interlibrary loan activity. The libraries in Hancock County, for instance, are among the heaviest users of the ILL network. Blue Hill, Bar Harbor, Castine, Ellsworth, Northeast, and Southwest Harbor also have the highest per capita expenditures among most of the libraries in their population groups.

The Regional Library Systems Act has worked remarkably well. Certainly the concerns about the loss of local autonomy have been put to rest. Users of local libraries and school libraries have improved access to library services when their librarians can tie into the collections and reference staffs of the Area Reference and Resource Centers. Local library staffs are better prepared through the support offered by the District Consultants. There is still some unfinished business - a statewide borrower's card, for instance. Many libraries do not tie into the
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CHAPTER 4
REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Section
110. Definitions.
111. Regional library development.
112. — functions.
113. Library districts.
114. District council.
115. Area reference and resource centers.
117. District consultants.
118. School libraries and media center.
119. Distribution of appropriations.

Chapter 4, Regional Library Systems, was enacted by Laws 1973, c. 626, § 6.

§ 110. Definitions
In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Appeals board. “Appeals board” means the Maine Library Commission acting, on request from interested citizens, as a board of review for decisions made concerning the State’s library plan.

2. Area reference and resource center. “Area reference and resource center” means a large public, school or academic library designated by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purpose of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district, of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district which by contract become part of the library district.

3. Common borrower’s card. “Common borrower’s card” means a system of personal identification for the purpose of borrowing and returning books and other materials from any library that participates in the regional system.

4. District consultant. “District consultant” means one who acts as a general library consultant to one or more districts.

5. District council. “District council” means an advisory body representing a constituency of participating libraries within a geographical district.

6. District plan. “District plan” in entirety means a statement describing the specific purposes for which the district is formed, the means and the agencies by which such purposes are to be accomplished, and an estimate of the funds necessary to their accomplishment; also the public agency which is to receive those funds.

7. Library district. “Library district” means a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries joined cooperatively to an area-reference and re-
source center and a research center. Local libraries within the district may also be joined cooperatively with other types of libraries.

8. Local library board. "Local library board" means the body which has the authority to give administrative direction or advice to a library through its librarian.

9. Media center. "Media center" means any library utilizing print as well as extensive nonprint resources and materials.

10. Public library. "Public library" means a library freely open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation or group. The above serves the informational, educational and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible.

11. Regional library system. "Regional library system" means a network of library districts interrelated by formal or informal contract, for the purpose of organizing library resources and services for research, information and recreation to improve statewide library service and to serve collectively the entire population of the State.

12. Research center. "Research center" means any library designated as such by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.


Historical Note
Laws 1977, c. 125, in subsec. 4, substituted "one" for "a Maine State Library employee".
Laws 1981, c. 464, repealed and replaced subsec. 5, which prior thereto read:

"District council. 'District council' means an advisory body serving as a policy-making authority for a constituency of participating libraries within a geographical district."

Library References

§ 111. Regional library development

1. Maine Library Commission. There shall be created within the Department of Educational and Cultural Services a library commission which shall be designated as the Maine Library Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004, subsection 10. It shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The library commission shall be broadly representative of the state's libraries and shall consist of a representative from public, school, academic, special, institutional and handicapped libraries, a trustee representative, one representative from each of the library districts as they are formed and 3 representatives from the State at large of whom one shall be representative of the disadvantaged.
The term of each appointed member shall be 5 years or until his successor is appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, 3 shall be for one year, 3 for 2 years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 3 for 5 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for the full term of 5 years. No members shall serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor shall be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, the directors of the area reference and resource centers shall serve as permanent, nonvoting ex officio members of the Maine Library Commission.

The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chairman for a term of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation. The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379 1.


1 Section 12001 et seq. of title 5.

Historical Note

Laws 1983, c. 245, inserted the third paragraphs of Title 5, chapter 379" for "serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties".

Savings clause. For savings clause provision of Laws 1983, c. 812, § 302, see the Historical Note under title 25, § 2801.

Cross References

Advisory boards and boards with minimal responsibility, powers and responsibilities, compensation, see title 5, § 12004-I.

Library References

States §§-45.
C.J.S. States § 79 et seq.

§ 112. — functions

The library commission shall:

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the appointment of the State Librarian;

2. Policies. Give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to: The policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the district council;
3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the commissioner regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing shall be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision.

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.


Historical Note
Laws 1977, c. 125, added subsec. 4.

Library References
States §66.
C.J.S. States § 120 et seq.

§ 113. Library districts

Upon the advice of the Maine Library Commission, the State shall be divided into as many districts as the commissioner shall determine are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.


§ 114. District council

Each library district shall have an advisory council which shall be known as the district council.

1. Membership. The governing board of each library which has agreed to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. The district council shall elect an executive board composed of 9 members and shall distribute this membership among librarians, trustees and lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its number the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least twice a year.

2. Duties. The district council shall:
   A. Serve as an advisory body for the districts.
   B. Develop and evaluate a program of services in the district which will encourage cooperative activity among all types of libraries and media centers;
   C. Provide liaison among the municipalities in the district;
   D. Make recommendations to the Maine Library Commission which would in turn make recommendations to the commissioner regarding programs and services which would help to make libraries and media centers in the district accessible to all;
   E. Assist in the development of a comprehensive district plan.
§ 114. Libraries, History and Culture

F. Advise on the selection of an area reference and resource center and a research center for the district.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, repealed and replaced subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Membership. The governing board of each library which has contracted to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. At its first annual meeting the district council shall elect an executive board composed of, in total, 9 members, which shall include 3 librarians, one trustee and 5 lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its number the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least 3 times a year";

and in par. E of subsec. 2, deleted "based upon community plans of service" following "district plan".

Laws 1981, c. 464, repealed and replaced par. A of subsec. 2, which prior thereto read:

"Serve as a policy-making body for the district within the limits of its authority which shall in no way diminish the power of the local library board;".

§ 115. Area reference and resource centers

Each district shall be affiliated with an area reference and resource center which shall be designated by the commissioner, with the advice of the library commission.

1. Duties. The area reference and resource center may:

A. Provide a common borrower's card for member libraries;

B. Participate with the district consultant in planning and conducting workshops on community-library planning;

C. Provide office space and support services to the extent able to the district consultant;

D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan;

E. Such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require.


§ 116. Research centers

Research centers may be designated by the commissioner with the advice of the Library Commission.

1. Duties. The research center shall:

A. Provide for advanced research needs;

B. Act as a back-up collection for the specialized reference needs of the reference and resource centers;

C. Provide such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require.

§ 117. District consultants

The State Librarian, with the advice of the district council, shall appoint a staff member, or contract with an area reference and resource center, to provide district consultant services to one or more districts as determined by the policies established by the commissioner.

1. Duties. The district consultant shall serve as secretary of the district council and further shall:

A. Serve as a professional consultant to libraries within the district or districts;
B. Study the needs of the district and make recommendations to the district council;
C. Coordinate services among libraries of all types;
D. Provide liaison between the district, other districts and the Maine State Library;
E. Encourage local initiative and commitment to regional cooperative library service;
F. Work with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service; and
G. Help evolve a district plan of service.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, repealed and replaced the first paragraph, which prior thereto read:

"The State Librarian, with the advice of the district council, shall appoint a staff member to serve as a district consultant to one or more districts as determined by the policies established by the commissioner."

and repealed and replaced par. G of subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Help evolve community based plans of service."

and repealed and replaced par. F of subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Assist in planning for area reference and interlibrary loan service."

§ 118. School libraries and media center

Any school library or media center in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, which agrees to offer service as a public library, is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the commissioner.

§ 119. Distribution of appropriations

The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, cc. 125 and 555 enacted this section; c. 564 repealed and replaced this section as enacted by c. 125, which in effect adopted the text as enacted by Laws 1977, c. 555.

As enacted by Laws 1977, c. 125, this section read:

"The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to distribute on a per capita basis, in support of local library services, moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose."

Laws 1977, c. 690, repealed and replaced this section, which prior thereto read:

"The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems."

Library References

States §=123, 132.  
C.J.S. States §§ 226, 230 et seq.
§ 95. Annual appropriation

An annual appropriation shall be made for the conservation and preservation of historically significant Maine State Library research material.

[See main volume for text of 1]

2. Approval of grants. The Maine Library Commission shall approve grants with the advice of the State Librarian.

3. Proposals. Agencies and libraries applying for grants shall submit project proposals in a form prescribed by the Maine State Library.

1989, c. 700, § B-23.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-23, in subsec. 2, substituted reference to the Maine Library Commission for commissioner, and deleted the provision which stated that all proposals and grants shall be reviewed and have the advice of the Maine Library Commission; and, in subsec. 3, substituted reference to Maine State Library for Maine State Library Bureau.

CHAPTER 4

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

WESTLAW Electronic Research

See WESTLAW Electronic Research Guide following the Preface.

§ 110. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

[See main volume for text of 1]

2. Area reference and resource center. "Area reference and resource center" means a large public, school or academic library designated by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purpose of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district, of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district which by contract become part of the library district.

[See main volume for text of 3 to 11]

12. Research center. "Research center" means any library designated as such by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-24, rephrased the first par. which formerly read: "In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following words shall have the following meanings:"

Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-25, in subsecs. 2 and 12, deleted references to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services as designating libraries to be "area reference and resource center" or "research center", as the case may be, but retained references to being designated by the State Librarian.

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The term of each appointed member shall be 5 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, 3 shall be for one year, 3 for 2 years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 3 for 5 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for the full term of 5 years. No members may serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor shall be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

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The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chair and vice-chair for terms of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation. The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

\[1\]

Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments
1989 Amendments. Laws 1989, c. 503, § B, 114, in subsec. 1, substituted reference to § 12004-I, subsec. 14, for reference to § 12004, subsec. 10, and in sentence beginning "It shall elect", substituted "chair" for "chairman".

Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-26, in subsec. 1, rephrased the first sentence of the opening par.

\[2\]

§ 112. —functions

The library commission shall:

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Appoint the State Librarian. The State Librarian must be qualified through training or experience in library work. The State Librarian shall serve for an indefinite term, subject to removal for cause. Compensation shall be fixed by the Governor;

2. Policies. Establish the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the district council;

3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the State Librarian regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision.

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the State Librarian with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.


Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments
1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-27, in subsec. 1, replaced the provision which formerly required advice and recommendations with regard to the appointment of the State Librarian; in subsec. 2, deleted requirement to give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to policies and in lieu thereof added...
§ 113. Library districts

The Maine Library Commission shall divide the State into as many districts as the commission determines are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.

1989, c. 700, § B-29.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-29, repealed and replaced this section which formerly provided that upon the advice of the Maine Library Commission, the State shall be divided into as many districts as the commissioner shall determine are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.

§ 115. Area reference and resource centers

Each district shall be affiliated with an area reference and resource center which shall be designated by the Maine Library Commission.

1. Duties. The area reference and resource center may:

[See main volume for text of A to C]

D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan; and

[See main volume for text of E]


Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-30, in the first par., substituted provision for designation by the Maine Library Commission in lieu of provision for designation by the commissioner, with the advice of the Library Commission.

Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-31, in subsec. 1, added "and" at the end of par. D.

§ 118. School libraries and media centers

Any school library or media center in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, which agrees to offer service as a public library, is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the State Librarian.

1989, c. 700, § B-32.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-31, substituted reference to the approval of the State Librarian for that of the commissioner.

§ 119. Distribution of appropriations

The Maine Library Commission is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.

1989, c. 700, § B-33.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-33, rephrased the section which, prior thereto, stated that the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.
CHAPTER 4
REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Section
110. Definitions.
111. Regional library development.
112. — functions.
113. Library districts.
114. District council.
115. Area reference and resource centers.
117. District consultants.
118. School libraries and media center.
119. Distribution of appropriations.

Chapter 4, Regional Library Systems, was enacted by Laws 1973, c. 626, § 6.

§ 110. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Appeals board. "Appeals board" means the Maine Library Commission acting, on request from interested citizens, as a board of review for decisions made concerning the State's library plan.

2. Area reference and resource center. "Area reference and resource center" means a large public, school or academic library designated by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purpose of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district, of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district which by contract become part of the library district.

3. Common borrower's card. "Common borrower's card" means a system of personal identification for the purpose of borrowing and returning books and other materials from any library that participates in the regional system.

4. District consultant. "District consultant" means one who acts as a general library consultant to one or more districts.

5. District council. "District council" means an advisory body representing a constituency of participating libraries within a geographical district.

6. District plan. "District plan" in entirety means a statement describing the specific purposes for which the district is formed, the means and the agencies by which such purposes are to be accomplished, and an estimate of the funds necessary to their accomplishment; also the public agency which is to receive those funds.

7. Library district. "Library district" means a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries joined cooperatively to an area reference and re-
source center and a research center. Local libraries within the district may also be joined cooperatively with other types of libraries.

8. Local library board. "Local library board" means the body which has the authority to give administrative direction or advice to a library through its librarian.

9. Media center. "Media center" means any library utilizing print as well as extensive nonprint resources and materials.

10. Public library. "Public library" means a library freely open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation or group. The above serves the informational, educational and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible.

11. Regional library system. "Regional library system" means a network of library districts interrelated by formal or informal contract, for the purpose of organizing library resources and services for research, information and recreation to improve statewide library service and to serve collectively the entire population of the State.

12. Research center. "Research center" means any library designated as such by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, in subsec. 4, substituted "one" for "a Maine State Library employee".
Laws 1981, c. 464, repealed and replaced subsec. 5, which prior thereto read:

"District council. 'District council' means an advisory body serving as a policy-making authority for a constituency of participating libraries within a geographical district."

Library References

States <=45.
C.J.S. States § 79 et seq.
Words and Phrases (Perm.Ed.)

§ 111. Regional library development

1. Maine Library Commission. There shall be created within the Department of Educational and Cultural Services a library commission which shall be designated as the Maine Library Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004, subsection 10. It shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The library commission shall be broadly representative of the state's libraries and shall consist of a representative from public, school, academic, special, institutional and handicapped libraries, a trustee representative, one representative from each of the library districts as they are formed and 3 representatives from the State at large of whom one shall be representative of the disadvantaged.
The term of each appointed member shall be 5 years or until his successor is appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, 3 shall be for one year, 3 for 2 years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 3 for 5 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for the full term of 5 years. No members shall serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor shall be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, the directors of the area reference and resource centers shall serve as permanent, nonvoting ex officio members of the Maine Library Commission.

The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chairman for a term of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation. The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379 § 1. 1973, c. 626, § 6; 1983, c. 245; 1983, c. 812, § 168.

1 Section 12001 et seq. of title 5.

Historical Note

Laws 1983, c. 245, inserted the third paragraph.

Laws 1983, c. 812, inserted the fourth paragraph, substituted "serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties".

Historical Note

Savings clause. For savings clause provision of Laws 1983, c. 812, § 302, see the Historical Note under title 25, § 2801.

Cross References

Advisory boards and boards with minimal responsibility, powers and responsibilities, compensation, see title 5, § 12004-I.

Library References

States § 45.
C.J.S. States § 79 et seq.

§ 112. — functions

The library commission shall:

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the appointment of the State Librarian;

2. Policies. Give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to: The policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the district council;
3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the commissioner regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing shall be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision.

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, added subsec. 4.

Library References

States § 66.
C.J.S. States § 120 et seq.

§ 113. Library districts

Upon the advice of the Maine Library Commission, the State shall be divided into as many districts as the commissioner shall determine are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.


§ 114. District council

Each library district shall have an advisory council which shall be known as the district council.

1. Membership. The governing board of each library which has agreed to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. The district council shall elect an executive board composed of 9 members and shall distribute this membership among librarians, trustees and lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its number the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least twice a year.

2. Duties. The district council shall:
   A. Serve as an advisory body for the districts.
   B. Develop and evaluate a program of services in the district which will encourage cooperative activity among all types of libraries and media centers;
   C. Provide liaison among the municipalities in the district;
   D. Make recommendations to the Maine Library Commission which would in turn make recommendations to the commissioner regarding programs and services which would help to make libraries and media centers in the district accessible to all;
   E. Assist in the development of a comprehensive district plan.
   263
F. Advise on the selection of an area reference and resource center and a research center for the district.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, repealed and replaced subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Membership. The governing board of each library which has contracted to participate in the district system shall appoint a representative to the district council. At its first annual meeting the district council shall elect an executive board composed of, in total, 9 members, which shall include 3 librarians, one trustee and 5 lay members. The district executive board shall elect from its number the appropriate officers as needed. The district council shall meet at least 3 times a year";
and in par. E of subsec. 2, deleted "based upon community plans of service" following "district plan".

Laws 1981, c. 464, repealed and replaced par. A of subsec. 2, which prior thereto read:

"Serve as a policy-making body for the district within the limits of its authority which shall in no way diminish the power of the local library board;".

§ 115. Area reference and resource centers

Each district shall be affiliated with an area reference and resource center which shall be designated by the commissioner, with the advice of the library commission.

1. Duties. The area reference and resource center may:

A. Provide a common borrower's card for member libraries;
B. Participate with the district consultant in planning and conducting workshops on community-library planning;
C. Provide office space and support services to the extent able to the district consultant;
D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan;
E. Such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require.


§ 116. Research centers

Research centers may be designated by the commissioner with the advice of the Library Commission.

1. Duties. The research center shall:

A. Provide for advanced research needs;
B. Act as a back-up collection for the specialized reference needs of the reference and resource centers;
C. Provide such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require.

§ 117. District consultants

The State Librarian, with the advice of the district council, shall appoint a staff member, or contract with an area reference and resource center, to provide district consultant services to one or more districts as determined by the policies established by the commissioner.

1. Duties. The district consultant shall serve as secretary of the district council and further shall:

A. Serve as a professional consultant to libraries within the district or districts;
B. Study the needs of the district and make recommendations to the district council;
C. Coordinate services among libraries of all types;
D. Provide liaison between the district, other districts and the Maine State Library;
E. Encourage local initiative and commitment to regional cooperative library service;
F. Work with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service; and
G. Help evolve a district plan of service.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, c. 125, repealed and replaced the first paragraph, which prior thereto read:

"The State Librarian, with the advice of the district council, shall appoint a staff member to serve as a district consultant to one or more districts as determined by the policies established by the commissioner."

and repealed and replaced par. G of subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Help evolve community based plans of service."

Laws 1981, c. 464, repealed and replaced the first paragraph of subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"The district consultant shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the district council and shall serve as secretary and further shall:

in par. D of subsec. 1, substituted "the Maine State Library" for "state agencies"; and

repealed and replaced par. F of subsec. 1, which prior thereto read:

"Assist in planning for area reference and interlibrary loan service."

§ 118. School libraries and media center

Any school library or media center in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, which agrees to offer service as a public library, is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the commissioner.


Library References

Schools § 76.
C.J.S. Schools and School Districts § 269.
128 M.R.S.A.—10

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§ 119. Distribution of appropriations

The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.


Historical Note

Laws 1977, cc. 125 and 555 enacted this section; c. 564 repealed and replaced this section as enacted by c. 125, which in effect adopted the text as enacted by Laws 1977, c. 555.

As enacted by Laws 1977, c. 125, this section read:

"The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to distribute on a per capita basis, in support of local library services, moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose."

Laws 1977, c. 690, repealed and replaced this section, which prior thereto read:

"The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems."

Library References

States §§ 123, 132.
C.J.S. States §§ 226, 230 et seq.
§ 95. Annual appropriation

An annual appropriation shall be made for the conservation and preservation of historically significant Maine State Library research material.

[See main volume for text of 1]

2. Approval of grants. The Maine Library Commission shall approve grants with the advice of the State Librarian.

3. Proposals. Agencies and libraries applying for grants shall submit project proposals in a form prescribed by the Maine State Library.

1989, c. 700, § B-23.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-23, in subsec. 2, substituted reference to the Maine Library Commission for commissioner, and deleted the provision which stated that all proposals and grants shall be reviewed and have the advice of the Maine Library Commission; and, in subsec. 3, substituted reference to Maine State Library for Maine State Library Bureau.

CHAPTER 4

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

WESTLAW Electronic Research

See WESTLAW Electronic Research Guide following the Preface.

§ 110. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

[See main volume for text of 1]

2. Area reference and resource center. “Area reference and resource center” means a large public, school or academic library designated by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purpose of making its resources and services available without charge to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district, of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district which by contract become part of the library district.

[See main volume for text of 8 to 11]

12. Research center. “Research center” means any library designated as such by the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purposes of making its major research collections, under such rules and regulations as are defined by its governing board and head librarian, available to the residents of the State.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Amendments

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-24, rephrased the first par. which formerly read: “In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following words shall have the following meanings.”

1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-25, in subsecs. 2 and 12, deleted references to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services as designating libraries to be “area reference and resource center” or “research center”, as the case may be, but retained references to being designated by the State Librarian.

§ 111. Regional library development

1. Maine Library Commission. There is created the Maine Library Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004–G, subsection 7–E. It shall consist of 15 members...
appointed by the Governor. The library commission shall be broadly representative of the state's libraries and shall consist of a representative from public, school, academic, special, institutional and handicapped libraries, a trustee representative, one representative from each of the library districts as they are formed and 3 representatives from the State at large of whom one shall be representative of the disadvantaged.

The term of each appointed member shall be 5 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified. Of the members first appointed, 3 shall be for one year, 3 for 2 years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 4 years and 3 for 5 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for the full term of 5 years. No members may serve more than 2 successive terms. In the case of a vacancy other than the expiration of a term, the appointment of a successor shall be made in like manner for the balance of the term.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, the directors of the area reference and resource centers shall serve as permanent, nonvoting ex officio members of the Maine Library Commission.

The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. It shall elect a chair and vice-chair for terms of 2 years and frame and modify bylaws for its internal organization and operation. The State Librarian shall serve as secretary to the commission. The members of the commission shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

Historical and Statutory Notes

§ 112. —functions
The library commission shall:

1. Appointment of State Librarian. Appoint the State Librarian. The State Librarian must be qualified through training or experience in library work. The State Librarian shall serve for an indefinite term, subject to removal for cause. Compensation shall be fixed by the Governor;

2. Policies. Establish the policies and operations of the Maine State Library and the State's library program including minimum standards of library service, the apportionment of state aid to libraries, the designation of library districts and their boundaries, the designation of area reference and resource centers and the designation of research centers after full consideration of the advice of the district council;

3. Review. Act, on written request by any interested library, as an appeals board concerning decisions of the State Librarian regarding the items in subsection 2. The written request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days from the date of the decision.

4. Federal program. Serve as the State Advisory Council on Libraries and in that capacity give advice and make recommendations to the State Librarian with regard to the administration of federal funds, in accordance with the terms thereof, which may now or in the future become available for library purposes.

Historical and Statutory Notes
§ 113. Library districts

The Maine Library Commission shall divide the State into as many districts as the commission determines are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.

1989, c. 700, § B-29.

Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments
1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-29, repealed and replaced this section which formerly provided that upon the advice of the Maine Library Commission, the State shall be divided into as many districts as the commissioner shall determine are required and shall establish or modify the geographical boundaries of each district.

§ 115. Area reference and resource centers

Each district shall be affiliated with an area reference and resource center which shall be designated by the Maine Library Commission.

1. Duties. The area reference and resource center may:

[Duties listed, See main volume for text of A to C]

D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan; and

[See main volume for text of E]


Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments

§ 118. School libraries and media center

Any school library or media center in a community with no public library service, or serving communities with no public libraries, which agrees to offer service as a public library, is entitled to all the benefits accruing to a public library with the approval of the State Librarian.

1989, c. 700, § B-32.

Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments
1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-32, substituted reference to the approval of the State Librarian for that of the commissioner.

§ 119. Distribution of appropriations

The Maine Library Commission is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.

1989, c. 700, § B-33.

Historical and Statutory Notes
Amendments
1989 Amendment. Laws 1989, c. 700, § B-33, rephrased the section which, prior thereto, stated that the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.
In the early history of Maine, cooperation was a way of life. Cooperation and the sharing of ideas and experiences transformed a land of deep forest and rock-bound coastal waters into working farms, wood frame homes, sailing ships and local industry. Information, in those times, passed on from father to son, mother to daughter, neighbor to neighbor, town to town, until the State opened up and a way of life particular to Maine was created. Sharing knowledge, sharing resources and combining skills is still very much a part of everyday life in Maine.

And it was in this same spirit of cooperation for a greater good that the Maine Regional Library System was developed.

In July of 1973, the Maine Legislature enacted a bill which made it possible for all the libraries in Maine to join together into one resource sharing network.

By dividing the State into three distinct districts--

The Northeastern District, with the Bangor Public Library as the Area Resource and Reference Center--

The Central District with the Augusta State Library and Lewiston Public Library as a center, and the Southern District with the Portland Public as Resource Center--
14. Add lines (dots) for all other libraries

15. Int. Library Stacks

16. Person using talking book

17. Int of Film library & videotape

18. Paintings at Portland Art

19. Adult workshop

20. Children's workshop

21. Hardhat type reading book at lunch time

22. Someone checking book while working on something (building?)

23. Out in garden reading garden book

24. AT&T

25. Person working on the phone lines

26. Person on tractor

27. Person reading tractor maintenance next to tractor

28. Videocassette of microfiche

29. Card Catalog

30. Computer (telex)

31. Bookmobile being loaded

32. Tape/film transfer

33. Mail drop in library

34. Person getting package

All other surrounding libraries, be they public, school or special, are then connected up to their Central District Library, creating an interlibrary network of resource sharing that could never be duplicated by any one individual library on its own.

Sharing resources that include, not only books and periodicals but special collections for the blind, the deaf and handicapped --- Non print media such as films, videotapes, slides, microfilm and microfiche, Even paintings are available. And people as well, who provide consulting services, hold workshops and exchange information and expertise throughout the state.

Gathering knowledge, in this information age we live in, is no longer the province of the scholar.

The need to know has become a necessity of living as well as a primary pleasure. Information and the movement of information is one of the world's largest industries.

And as Marshall McLuhan put it: "In this age of information Man the food finder becomes Man the fact finder."

The form information takes has changed, the packaging of information and information retrieval systems are not only mechanized but electrified.

Moving information from one source to another, from one format to another, from one library to another, out to the people, the fact-finders, is what the Maine Regional Library System is all about.

And the search for information, knowledge, begins with you.
Your needs, your own local library and your hometown librarian or school principal. Participating in the Regional System is free to all libraries. With it you have the resources of ......million books, ......periodicals ......whatever. without ever having to travel farther than your own hometown.

For instance, if you live in ....... and you need some information.......and your local library doesn't have it. As a participant in the M.R.L.S. all your librarian has to do is use the toll free Wats line, locate the information and in a matter of a few days, the information you need will be mailed and ready to pick up at your own library. Free service, free postage, Truly information to go at your own public library.

And if the information isn't in the State of MAine, computer hook ups can speed your request throughout New England or the Nation if necessary.

If your library doesn't belong to the MRLS, or if you live in a place that doesn't have a library of ANY Kind. Then you may go to your district Area Resource and Reference Center and obtain the same special service. Service for yourself,
A handicapped friend
Your children
And your community.
48. Choose ext of some nice quaint library

49. Show very modern library

50. Ext. Portland Public Library

51. Slide of what the talk is of

52. Two-three libraries around portland interiors

53. Project Prime in action

54. Ext State Library

Int. special collection

55. Other

56. match topic

57. The Central District libraries include

Projects ...... State library runs Bookmobile - 7- \n
Like the individual character of Maine and Maine people the libraries and librarians in this State all reflect unique approaches to library service.

Likewise each Area Reference and Resource Center has its own special collections and projects.

The Portland Public Library

(2 special facts about Portland)

Libraries around the Portland area include

Reaching out to the community, Project Prime ......
60. Ext. Bangor Library

61-66

67. Legislature

68. Int. of empty old dusty library
69. Busy scene
70. Community activity around library.

71. Inside of mailing section of library
(few shots)
Eqipemtn being delivered set.

72. Desk with pile of received material. People waiting
73. Winter forest operation today
74. Person wrapped up by wood stove in log cabin reading book.

5.

The Bangor Public Library as the Northern District's ARRC \ldots...

The northeastern district has such libraries as \ldots to \ldots with special collections on \ldots...

The \ldots project brings to the people of the Northeast \ldots...

With the Maine Regional Library System all these talents and collections are joined together so that all Maine people will have equal access and equal benefit. Transforming the concept of what a library used to be into what it can be --- a total concept in on-going learning, a center for all the community.

WHO pays for the service? Underfunded 36\% poor funds/government/technology manual

In 1978 alone, over \ldots books were circulated through interlibrary loan. Over \ldots \textit{xxx} tapes, films, whatever. And over \ldots \$ were \textit{\textdollar} put into \textit{xxx} new projects. (Whatever)

And more important, as more libraries join the System and more people experience the real benefits of shared resources the statistics rise, month per month.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

The Maine Regional Library System is an innovative approach to an old Maine tradition"x: Cooperation.

Making it possible so that wherever you are, whatever you do: A good book will not be hard to find.

MUSIC OUT

(Will be 80 slides = approx 9-10 minutes)
THE MAINE CONNECTION: The Maine Regional Library System

In the early history of Maine, cooperation was a way of life. Cooperation and the sharing of ideas and experiences transformed a land of deep forest and rock bound coastal waters into working farms, wood frame homes, sailing ships and local industry.

In those times, information passed on from parent to child, neighbor to neighbor, town to town. Slowly the state developed and a way of life evolved that Maine people still take pride in.

As a result, sharing knowledge, sharing resources, and combining skills are still very much a part of everyday life in Maine.

It was in this same spirit of cooperation that the Maine Regional Library System was developed.

In July of 1973, the state legislature enacted a bill which made it possible through state funding for all the libraries in Maine to join together into one resource-sharing network.

The network consists of 3 districts: Northeastern, Central and Southern.
libraries in each district are connected to a large central library called an Area Reference and Resource Center.

The Bangor Public Library serves as the Area Reference and Resource Center for the North-eastern District, the Maine State Library in cooperation with the Lewiston Public Library is the Central District's Area Reference and Resource Center and the Southern District is served by the Portland Public Library.

All member libraries -- public, school, academic or special -- are tied together creating an interlibrary network of shared resources that could never be duplicated by any one library. These resources include not only books and periodicals, but special collections for the visually and physically handicapped, as well as films, videotapes, slides and microforms.

People, too, are part of the network as reference librarians and consultants direct and participate in workshops and exchange information throughout the state.

The search for information and knowledge begins with you.
It is no longer the province of the scholar. The need to know has become a virtual necessity of life.

Indeed information and its dissemination has become one of the world's largest industries.

In the words of Marshall McLuhan: "In this age of information Man the food finder returns as Man the fact finder."

The form information takes has also changed. Modern day retrieval systems are not only mechanized but computerized.

TALIMAIN, a technical information delivery system, was established in cooperation with 12 federal research libraries at 3 Maine libraries, Portland Public, the State Library and the University of Maine at Orono.

With the aid of TALIMAIN, businesses, government agencies and individual researchers can obtain computer produced bibliographies on technical subjects. Moving information from one source to another, from one format to another, from one library to another, out to the people, is what the Maine Regional Library system is all about.

Through the system you have the resources of over five million books and periodicals... along with thousands of non-print items...
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without ever having to leave your home town.

For instance, if you live on an island and
need some information on bridge building which
your local library doesn't have, all your
librarian has to do is use the toll free Wats
line to request the information and in a few
days the information you need will be mailed
and ready to pick up at your own library.

If your library doesn't belong to the
Maine Regional Library System, or if you
live in a place that doesn't have a library
of ANY kind, then you may contact your
district's Area Reference and Resource Center
and obtain the same special services ...

Service for yourself,
a handicapped friend,
your children,
your community.

Like the individual character of Maine and
Maine people, the libraries and librarians
in this state all reflect unique approaches to
library service.

For example, information on the environment is
available in the library of the modern Maine
Audobon Society in Falmouth.

The PRIME Resource Center in Portland is one
of 5 centers in the state which provide print
and non-print materials for teachers and
librarians.

Project Lodestone, in Calais, another
regional media center, also delivers a traveling children's multi-media collection to participating schools.

The Special Collections Department of the University of Maine at Orono has one of the finest research collections on Maine.

The Caribook Service in Caribou offers books by mail to nursing homes, day care centers and individuals.

The well-known LPL-APL series offers films, concerts, and workshops sponsored by the Lewiston and Auburn Public Libraries.

And many other Maine libraries sponsor a variety of free programs to people of all ages and interests.

Each Area Reference and Resource Center has its own special collections and projects.

For example, the Portland Public Library with 5 branches, a bookmobile and van service reaches out to the residents of Maine's largest city. Portland's Fine Arts collection contains over 15,000 books, periodicals and pictures.

The Bangor Public Library, as the Northeastern District's Area Reference and Resource Center, has one of the highest interlibrary loan statistics in all of New England.

The Northeastern District sponsors the Common Card Project. This card entitles
a person to reciprocal borrowing privileges at any participating library, free of charge.

The State Library in Augusta serves not only as an Area Reference and Resource Center for the Central District, with children's books and fiction being supplied by the Lewiston Public Library, but also administers a state-wide bookmobile network, and provides books-by-mail service to Maine residents without access to libraries.

With the Maine Regional Library System all of these talents and collections are joined together transforming what a library used to be into an information and communication center for the whole community.

In 1978, over 50,000 books, tapes, and films were circulated through the interlibrary loan system.

And circulation continues to rise each month as libraries join the System and more people experience the benefits of shared resources.

The Maine Regional Library System is an innovative approach to the old Maine tradition of Cooperation. Making it possible so that wherever you are, whatever you do: A good book will not be hard to find.

CREDITS and/or THE END
In the early history of Maine, cooperation was a way of life. Cooperation and the sharing of ideas and experiences transformed a land of deep forest and rock bound coastal waters into working farms, wood frame homes, sailing ships and local industry.

In those times, information passed on from parent to child, neighbor to neighbor, town to town. Slowly the state developed and a way of life evolved that Maine people still take pride in.

As a result, sharing knowledge, sharing resources, and combining skills are still very much a part of everyday life in Maine.

It was in this same spirit of cooperation that the Maine Regional Library System was developed.

In July of 1973, the state legislature enacted a bill which made it possible through state funding for all the libraries in Maine to join together into one resource-sharing network.

The network consists of 3 districts:

Northeastern, Central and Southern.
libraries in each district are connected to a large central library called an Area Reference and Resource Center.

17 The Bangor Public Library serves as the Area Reference and Resource Center for the North-eastern District, the Maine State Library in cooperation with the Lewiston Public Library is the Central District's Area Reference and Resource Center and the Southern District is served by the Portland Public Library.

20 All member libraries -- public, school, academic or special -- are tied together creating an interlibrary network of shared resources that could never be duplicated by an one library.

These resources include not only books and periodicals, but special collections for the visually and physically handicapped, as well as films, videotapes, slides and microforms.

21 People, too, are part of the network as reference librarians and consultants direct and participate in workshops and exchange information throughout the state.

26 The search for information and knowledge begins with you.
It is no longer the province of the scholar.

27 The need to know has become a virtual necessity of life.

28 Indeed information and its dissemination has become one of the world's largest industries.

29 In the words of Marshall McLuhan: "In this age of information Man the food finder returns as Man the fact finder."

30 The form information takes has also changed. Modern day retrieval systems are not only mechanized but computerized.

31 TALIMACHINE, a technical information delivery system, was established in cooperation with 12 federal research libraries at 3 Maine libraries, Portland Public, the State Library and the University of Maine at Orono.

32 With the aid of TALIMACHINE, businesses, government agencies and individual researchers can obtain computer produced bibliographies on technical subjects. Moving information from one source to another, from one format to another, from one library to another, out to the people, is what the Maine Regional Library system is all about.

33 Through the system you have the resources of over five million books and periodicals along with thousands of non-print items...
without ever having to leave your home town.

For instance, if you live on an island and
need some information on bridge building which
your local library doesn't have, all your
librarian has to do is use the toll free Wats
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innovative approach to the old Maine tradition
of Cooperation. Making it possible so that
wherever you are, whatever you do: A good
book will not be hard to find.

MUSIC OUT

STOP at end of Music
Susan,
Here are the notes that Nancy Crowell & Amy Averre put together...... Elaine

Brainstorming - Joint Meeting - Boards of Regional Districts
February 24, 1999, Bangor Public Library

Maine Regional Library System Successes

Multitype
ILL/ARRC
Consultants
Computer connections: MSLN network
Note: Infonet as part of ILL System?
Combined legislative efforts - successful because of multitype system Professional development (ex. Council meetings) Sense of community among librarians with common purpose, bond Cooperative purchasing

Concerns and Needs

NMLD Consultant shared with State Library
E-Rate assistance needed for small public libraries

Computer consultant at state level
Trustee information
More Listservs
Recruit more staff in small libraries to participate in training/
professional development Meetings among high school and college librarians about skills needed
(maybe summer institute with library schools)
MELIBS currently not working for communication in small libraries

Future Recommendations

Consultant role should be to refer - not be experts on all issues
Statewide Council meetings should be more northern - not more
than three-hour drive for anyone
Should there be sub-regions for meetings?
Need for both statewide and regional meetings
More computers in small libraries (ex. for communication)
Study computer use/needs
Need profile of communication needs of each library - how to reach them Professional Development Day - all libraries closed same day for prof. development

Needs

After MSLN funding runs out, what next? What are the plans?

Need information.
State standards - Who is responsible for updating? (MLA)

- Statewide licensing
- Postage assistance

More cooperative collection development among all types of libraries

Maine State Library Role / Issues

Role dictated by collections, ARRC position, no children services State depository Policy set by the Library Commission

Two divisions, 1.) Public 2.) Library Development Funding dismal, affecting ability to provide services - eliminate services?

Acquire more funding?

Liaison with legislature

Talking books services to special needs clients

Cooperative expertise sharing

How do Walt and Dot fit in?

Consultant role: connector and doer

Should consultants have specialized roles?

When do we become advocates for MSL?

What is our role as Boards? Direction for Districts should come from both Consultants and Board members. Communication should be done by different constituencies (school librarians, public, etc.)

We should reconfigure districts - NMLD too large

Nancy E. Crowell
Scarborough Public Library

Objectives for the future of the Maine Regional Library System, as articulated by the people who attended the joint meeting of the executive boards on February 24, 1999.

Write minimum standards for a librarian to become certified as technology-competent or computer-literate.

Clarify the roles of state library organizations.

Investigate the effectiveness of either a geographic realignment of the library districts, or the creation of subregions within the current districts.

Investigate the need for additional consultants, including ones with expertise in specific areas.

Promote enhanced delivery of services to libraries and librarians.

Recreate SACCE.

Investigate designating certain libraries to serve as training facilities for librarians.

Redefine the role of the Councils to be a forum for discussing
'Librarians' concerns about library issues.

- Redefine the role of the Councils to incorporate advocacy on behalf of librarians.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Averre

Elaine Belanger
Southern Maine Library District
Tel. (207) 871-1766
Memorandum

To: Executive Boards, Central and Northeastern Maine Library Districts
CC: District Consultants
From: Nancy E. Crowell, Southern Maine Library District Chairperson
Date: March 25, 1999
Re: Joint Boards meeting

At our recent SMLD Executive Board meeting, we discussed the proposed joint Boards meeting in May at the annual conference, or in June. Our Board is eager to use our June date for our annual Board retreat. We would like to offer an alternative.

We would like to suggest a meeting in the fall. We would like to include our Boards, all of the District Consultants, representatives of the public service and development divisions of the State Library, the State Librarian, representatives of all the professional associations (MASL, MLA, MLTA, HSLIC) and the Library Commission.

This group of participants would include all of the parties who were mentioned in the earlier discussions. We have learned that reorganization of the District system is a complex issue, yet one that seems to have some merit. Including all players in the discussion would be a good next step toward gathering information and recommending change. We hope that participation in the process will help to build trust among all of those who might be affected by any change that may be proposed.

We also feel that the delay will give a chance for orientation of the many new faces on our Boards and at the State Library.

Please feel free to communicate your thoughts to me or through your District Consultant.

On behalf of our board, I want to convey our appreciation to all for the opportunity to gather as a group. We hope the joint board gathering can become a regular, perhaps annual, event.