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Evaluating and Re-Envisioning Maine State Library Consultant Services 2016

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Evaluating and Re-envisioning Maine State Library Consultant Services



Report to the Maine Library Commission
September 26, 2016

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

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Summary



Summary

Report to the Maine Library Commission

Evaluation and Restructuring of the Maine State Library Consulting Services

Background on the Maine Regional Library System:

The Maine Regional Library System (MRLS) was established in 1973. In Title 27 the Maine Library Commission is given the authority to divide the state into as many districts as the commission determines and that each district shall have a council.

§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.

§114. District council

Each library district shall have an advisory council which shall be known as the district council. [1973, c. 626, §6]

§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.

The state was divided into three regional districts to serve all library types (public, school, academic and special). The Northeastern Maine Library District (NMLD) serving Aroostook, Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, and Washington counties, the Central Maine Library District (CMLD) serving Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset counties and the Southern Maine Library District (SMLD) serving Cumberland, York and selected Oxford county towns (Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Hiram, and Lovell). At that time, the decisions regarding district size was determined by population as well as available funding for personnel at the Maine State Library.

This model is now 43 years old. A paper entitled **Maine's Regional Library System: A History** 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. This was the 25th anniversary of the MRLS. It can be assumed that no changes resulted from that meeting and discussion and at the time the conclusion was "The Regional Library Systems Act has worked remarkably well" but "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?"

It was noted in the 1999 paper that Maine libraries "per capita expenditures and circulation activity are above the median for all states." Unfortunately, today we find that we are below in the national averages in both per capita and expenditures and circulation according to the latest national PLS Survey. "Regional library districts" in Maine did not develop and grow in the same way most regional systems grew nationally – organized around a centrally managed and shared ILS for all the libraries in the region along with ILL and shared card activities.

Much has changed since 1973 and the report in 1999 including:

- **Technology** (email, the Internet, video conferencing)
- **ILS** (the creation of Minerva and MILS; libraries using their own systems, their own OPACs)

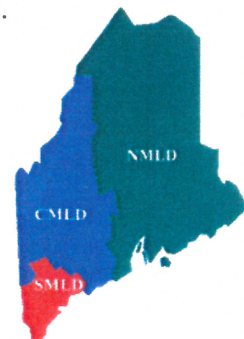
- **Statewide Online Catalog** (MaineCat - Interlibrary Loan could not be accomplished without the three ARRCs because libraries had no access to collections and online catalogs)
- **Interlibrary Loan** use has increased dramatically and continues to grow. ARRC services filling ILL requests for libraries not participating in MaineCat is vital to Maine libraries.

The 1999 paper addressed the infrastructure more than the work of the consultants. The paper stated: “Local library staffs are better prepared through the support offered by the District Consultants.” The role of the district consultants has changed along with the changes that have occurred in libraries. The initial intent was to educate, promote and develop interlibrary loan and the use of ARRC reference services in Maine’s public libraries. The Council meetings purpose (as interpreted by Title 27) was to provide the opportunity for the flow of information back and forth from the Maine State Library and the Maine Library Commission. The roles of the regional consultants, district councils, district executive boards and their relationships and focus have undergone significant change. The expansion of continuing education for librarians has been a result of the rapid changes in librarianship and library services. Maine’s unique library governance (57% of Maine public libraries are private/non-profit institutions with the balance being municipal departments) and high rate of public library directors without a library degree (72%) have created needs for training and consulting that are not the norm nationally. Add population sizes, vast geography, lack of regional or county systems built around an ILS and services plus the lack of direct state aid and Maine unique library challenges set it apart nationally.

The addition and evolution of statewide consultants in E-rate/Technology and Early Literacy demonstrated the need for focused “specialty” assistance from the state library that grew beyond what a “generalist” could answer. These statewide specialists could help both small and large libraries as well as scale the delivery of their assistance to size and ability. More and more the district consultants were consulting with other MSL staff when faced with questions beyond their realm of expertise. It became apparent that Maine libraries had expectations for more in-depth knowledge from MSL library staff. Discomfort grew as libraries consulted with another regional consultant on a special topic and consultants felt inadequate if they did not have the knowledge to provide all consulting services needed by their region. At the State Library level, it is difficult to find and hire a “generalist” today who is equipped to handle all questions from a geographic region. It is more logical to hire librarians with specialties and train them in some of the “generalist” skills. It is not financially viable to employ a cadre of specialists plus three or more regional consultants. The districts had never been created equally. Population made sense from an infrastructure viewpoint but did not from a consulting services delivery model. The NMLD was too vast and the needs from libraries serving small populations statewide were different. The inequities of the original district configurations when viewed by number of libraries and geography grew more obvious as training and consulting needs evolved. Maine is very rural and 70% of our libraries serve populations 5,000 and under.

We see the discussion about regional consultants versus specialists happening nationally. In September 2016, the South Carolina State Library advertised for an **Equity & Inclusion Consultant** “a position created in response to the growing call of South Carolina public libraries for knowledge and guidance on issues of access and inclusion, this position will promote and support accessible services, resources and programs, and improved staff skills for working with the state’s diverse population. The specialist trend is growing nationally and we believe that specialist consultants will benefit Maine more than regional consultants.

District	Population	# Public Libraries
CMLD	403,545	89
NMLD	434,637	117
SMLD	491,146	61



Process

The process initially began with the Commission's Statewide Shared Resources Subcommittee tasked with studying the Maine Regional Library System. After two meetings it was determined logical to look at the District Consultant model because MSL staff felt changes were necessary and had already discussed with some depth. With the recommendation of the committee, Library Development set out to craft a survey, look at the data, hold regional meetings and analyze the results from both. Our intent was to change the model but not without having a discussion with libraries statewide. Many comments from libraries prior to the survey indicated there was a desire at the local library level to move from the generalist to specialist. The survey and regional meetings were intended to widen that discussion, ask for input on the change and allay fears about changing models. The **MSL Consulting Services Survey for Public Libraries** was distributed online in October 2015. We had 173 respondents from all counties and library sizes in Maine. After holding a session about the change and survey results at MLA we determined that in spring 2016 we would hold regional meetings to discuss changes and receive feedback face to face to with librarians across the state. We held 15 regional meetings including the MASL Spring Symposium.

Regional Meeting Schedule

County	Library	Date
Kennebec County	Maine State Library	3/15/2016
Lincoln County/Sagadahoc County	Topsham Public Library	3/18/2016
Cumberland County	Falmouth Public Library	3/22/2016
Penobscot County	Bangor Public Library	3/28/2016
York County	Springvale Public Library	3/29/2016
Franklin County	Carrabassett Valley Public Library	3/31/2016
Knox County/Waldo County	Belfast Free Public Library	4/4/2016
Washington County	Porter Memorial Library (Machias)	4/11/2016
Aroostook County	Washburn Memorial Library	4/13/2016
Piscataquis County	Thompson Free/Dover-Foxcroft	4/26/2016
Somerset County	Pittsfield Public Library	4/27/2016
Oxford County	Norway Public Library	4/29/2016
MASL Spring Symposium	Brewer High School	4/30/2016
Hancock County	Ellsworth Public Library	5/9/2016
Androscoggin County	Auburn Public Library	5/10/2016

We had 147 librarians and trustees attend the regional meetings. At the completion of all the meeting we gathered the feedback forms and our notes from each meeting. The results were clear from discussions, feedback forms and notes that there was very strong support for this effort. There were certainly a few concerns but no deep disapproval at the proposed change. Librarian concerns were focused on the lack of a personal relationship with a consultant and the fear that small, rural libraries would be left out or ignored in this new model. The fact that MSL came to 14 areas to cover the state geography was highly appreciated and voices expressed a hope that MSL would deliver more services regionally - (meetings, discussions, CE and demonstrations) after the service model change.

Actions in response to concerns raised at meetings and in the survey are being met in two ways

1. The NMLD open position should be filled by a "Small, Rural library Specialist" whose focus will be on libraries serving populations 5,000 and under.

2. Library Development specialist staff would also serve as liaisons at the county level. Each specialist will be assigned 35-40 libraries (county/region). There will be a dedicated contact person for each public library.

For school libraries, we know needs are unmet. The DOE School Consultant focus has continued to be absorbed by work in the MLTI program. Specialists in early literacy, technology and STEM have branched out to serve school librarians. Our State Data Coordinator is working on a school library survey for 2017 to provide much needed data for them to use. Our hope is that MSL's budget request for a school library consultant will be approved for FY18/19. Otherwise, we will continue our efforts through the current specialists and explore new ways to support school librarians.

District Executive Board Meetings

The executive board retreats were held and all boards held discussions about the new model and made recommendations about the creation of one statewide advisory board. The recommendations varied as far as size and representation in all discussions. From the discussions it seemed clear that the best way forward would be that the first statewide board should consist of those serving on the current three boards to work out details on number of members, board makeup, focus, purpose, etc. The depth of knowledge, expertise and understanding on the current boards we believe is a key element to developing the new statewide board.

Recommendations to the Maine Library Commission

Our recommendations to the Commission for action are:

1. Create one Statewide Maine Library District
 - a. The district will have 9 service regions – arranged by single or combined counties but still aligned with the same ARRCs as to not disturb ILL and other current ARRC services
 - b. Each region will have an MSL Specialist assigned as the liaison.
2. Create one statewide advisory board (initial board to consist of 3 volunteer members from CMLD, NMLD, SMLD boards) who will meet to determine best board size and library type distribution and make recommendations to the Commission.
3. Continue with the 2 required council meetings consistent with Title 27 – one held at MLA each fall and one in the spring with rotating regional locations.
4. MSL staff will provide regional meetings and trainings with in the 9 new regional locations sending a team of specialists to an area at least once a year.

Proposed Service Regions

County	Region #	# Public Libraries
ANDROSCOGGIN	3	9
AROOSTOOK	9	15
CUMBERLAND	1	30
FRANKLIN	2	12
HANCOCK	7	22
KENNEBEC	3	18
KNOX	4	17
LINCOLN	4	11
OXFORD	2	19
PENOBSCOT	6	21
PISCATAQUIS	5	8
SAGadahoc	3	6
SOMERSET	5	14
WALDO	6	12
WASHINGTON	8	18
YORK	1	31

2

Survey





MSL Consulting Services Survey for Public Libraries

The Maine State Library is exploring new ways to deliver services to update the model created in 1973 as well as to comply with new reporting requirements from our federal funder, the Institute of Museum and Library services (IMLS). The intention of this survey is to elicit feedback from public library directors and library staff about your use of and satisfaction with our current consulting services. The results from this survey will help us craft a new service model to meeting current and future library needs in Maine.

We will randomly select 5 survey respondents to receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. Thanks for taking the time to respond!

Please submit your survey by noon on Friday, October 30.

* 1. Library Service Area Size (LSA)

- ☐ Under 1,000
- ☐ 1,000-2,499
- ☐ 2,500-4,999
- ☐ 5,000-9,999
- ☐ 10,000-24,999
- ☐ Over 24,999

* 2. County

*** 3. What is your major role at your library?**

- ☐ Library Director
- ☐ Assistant Director
- ☐ Children/Youth Services
- ☐ Adult Services/Reference
- ☐ Technical Services
- ☐ Technology/Systems
- ☐ Other. Please explain.

Other (please specify)

*** 4. How long have you been in this role?**

- ☐ less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ more than 20 years

*** 5. Please tell us what topics you reached out to the consultants for help within the last 1-2 years.
Choose all that apply.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Management issues (strategic planning, policies, budget, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> E-rate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> STEM literacy, maker spaces, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library legal issues (including questions about personnel, non-profit and municipal issues, and tax issues) | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Health literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partnerships and collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Trends affecting libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data, evaluation, statistics | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees, library boards, governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early literacy, story times, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Grants, fundraising, capital campaigns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital literacy, technology assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Building, construction, space utilization |

6. Please tell us what other topics, important to you, that you reached out to the consultants for help that are not listed in question #5.

*** 7. Of the topics listed in question 5 above (and listed below) please choose up to 10 of the most important as a subject knowledge area needed for you and your library going forward in the next 5-10 years.**

- ☐ Library Management issues (strategic planning, policies, budget, etc.)
- ☐ Marketing/advocacy
- ☐ Library legal issues (including questions about personnel, non-profit and municipal issues, and tax issues)
- ☐ Community engagement
- ☐ Partnerships and collaboration
- ☐ Data, evaluation, statistics
- ☐ Early literacy, story times, etc.
- ☐ Digital literacy, technology assistance
- ☐ E-rate
- ☐ STEM literacy, maker spaces, etc.
- ☐ Financial literacy
- ☐ Health literacy
- ☐ Trends affecting libraries
- ☐ Trustees, library boards, governance
- ☐ Grants, fundraising, capital campaigns
- ☐ Building, construction, space utilization

*** 8. A significant part of the Maine State Library's focus in the Library Development Division is the delivery of Continuing Education and Professional Development.**

The consultants plan these events.

In the last 12 months, have you attended or participated in any of the following (Choose all that apply):

- ☐ District Spring or Fall Council meetings
- ☐ Public Library Directors' Institute
- ☐ New Public Library Directors' Orientation
- ☐ Reading Round Up
- ☐ Early Literacy Training Programs
- ☐ Tech Petting Zoo events
- ☐ Local or regional meetings
- ☐ Webinars
- ☐ Public Library Voluntary Certification Program
- ☐ None of these

Other (please specify)

9. If you answered None in Question # 8 and have not attended any events, please explain why.

10. Do you have suggestions for any continuing education that would better suit your needs?

*** 11. Speaking with a consultant helps me to**

	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Resolve an issue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understand an issue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grow in my position	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. If you answered "Rarely" or "Never" in question # 11, please tell us what areas you are not receiving the help you need.

*** 13. Overall, how satisfied are you with the MSL's consulting services?**

	Very	Somewhat	Neutral	Somewhat unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Does not apply to me
District Consultants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology Consultant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-rate Consultant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Early Literacy Consultant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Think about a recent interaction with one of the consultants. Please tell us how the advice or guidance you received helped you resolve an issue, take action, improve library services or raised your understanding of an issue.

*** 15. Approximately how many times per year do you request services or a visit from a consultant?**

- ☐ 1-5 times per year
- ☐ 6-10 times per year
- ☐ More than 10 times per year
- ☐ I have never requested consulting services

*** 16. How do you get information from the Maine State Library? (Choose all that apply)**

- ☐ MELIBS
- ☐ MEINFO
- ☐ Public Library Director listserv
- ☐ District listserv
- ☐ Regional or state wide meetings
- ☐ Jabber, MOVI, Tandberg videoconferencing, or Skype
- ☐ Meetings with MSL staff
- ☐ Phone calls
- ☐ Email

Other (please specify)

SURVEY RESULTS



MSL Consulting Services Survey for Public Libraries

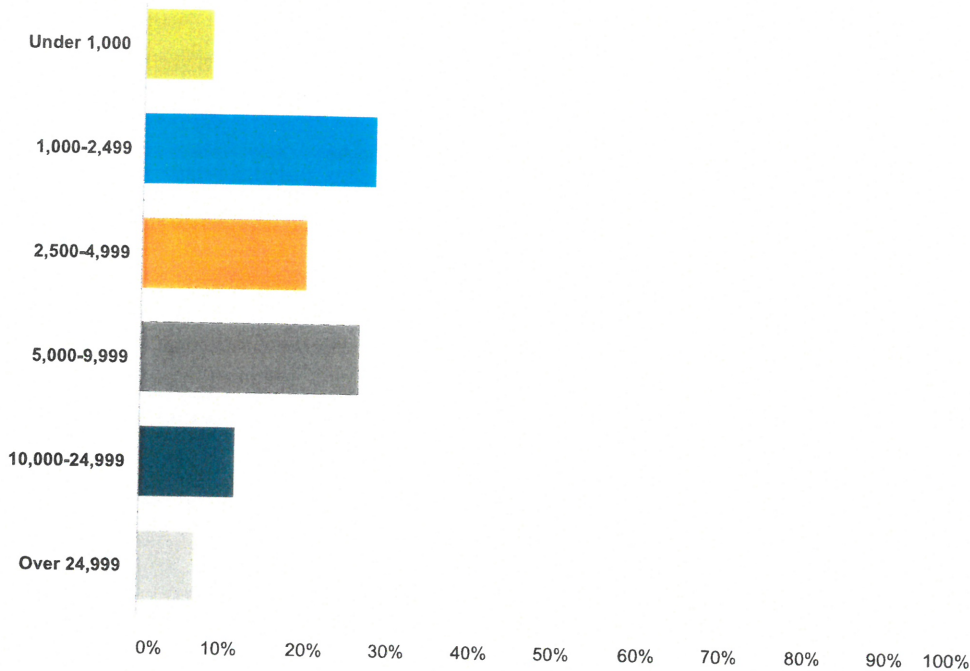
The Maine State Library is exploring new ways to deliver services to update the model created in 1973 as well as to comply with new reporting requirements from our federal funder, the Institute of Museum and Library services (IMLS). The intention of this survey is to elicit feedback from public library directors and library staff about your use of and satisfaction with our current consulting services. The results from this survey will help us craft a new service model to meeting current and future library needs in Maine.

Thanks for taking the time to respond!

Please submit your survey by noon on Friday, October 30.

Q1 Library Service Area Size (LSA)

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0

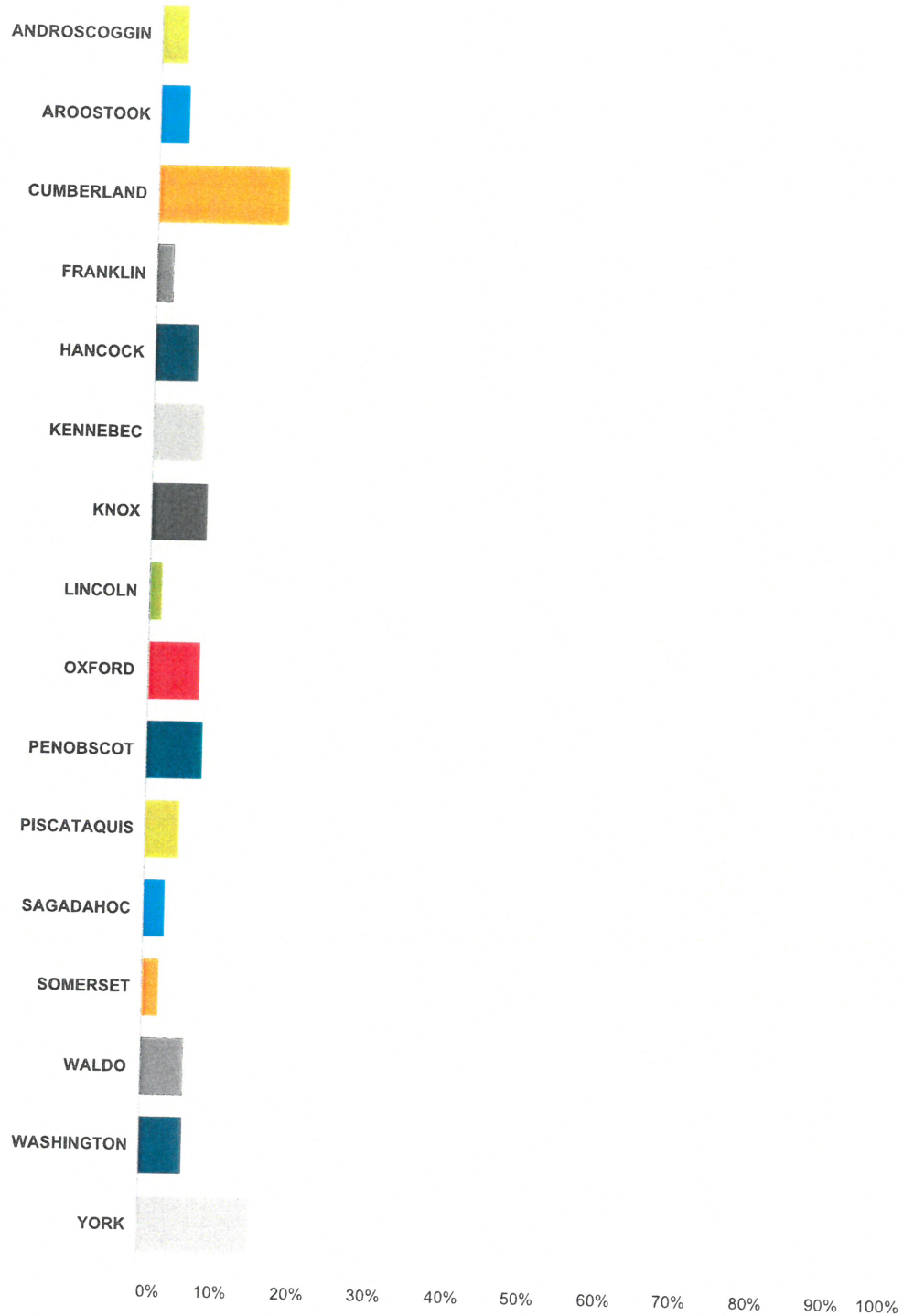


Answer Choices		Responses	
Under 1,000		8.09%	14
1,000-2,499		27.75%	48
2,500-4,999		19.65%	34
5,000-9,999		26.01%	45
10,000-24,999		11.56%	20
Over 24,999		6.94%	12
Total			173

Consultants

Q2 County

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

ANDROSCOGGIN

Responses

3.47%

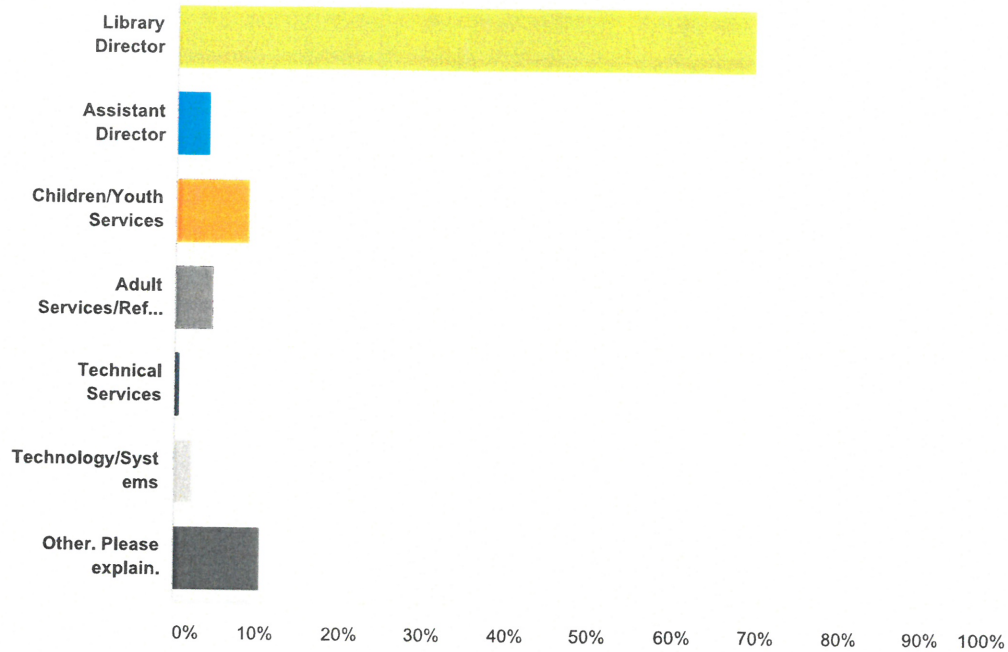
Consultants

AROOSTOOK	4.05%	7
CUMBERLAND	17.34%	30
FRANKLIN	2.31%	4
HANCOCK	5.78%	10
KENNEBEC	6.94%	12
KNOX	7.51%	13
LINCOLN	1.73%	3
OXFORD	6.94%	12
PENOBSCOT	7.51%	13
PISCATAQUIS	4.62%	8
SAGadahoc	2.89%	5
SOMERSET	2.31%	4
WALDO	5.78%	10
WASHINGTON	5.78%	10
YORK	15.03%	26
Total		173

Consultants

Q3 What is your major role at your library?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Responses

Library Director	69.36%	120
Assistant Director	4.05%	7
Children/Youth Services	8.67%	15
Adult Services/Reference	4.62%	8
Technical Services	0.58%	1
Technology/Systems	2.31%	4
Other. Please explain.	10.40%	18

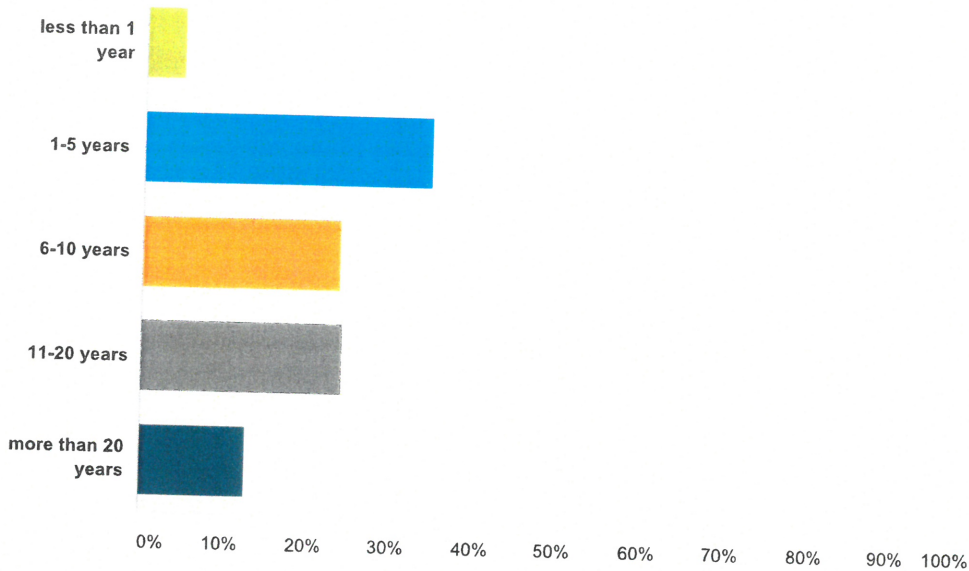
Total

173

What is Your Major Role - Other (please specify)
 Access Services Coordinator
 Adult Programming
 Assistant Librarian and Saturday Librarian
 Board President
 Circulation
 former librarian, current volunteer
 Friends of library and Trustee Executive Board member
 Manager, Library & Knowledge Services
 School Librarian
 school librarian
 Seasonal (summer) Librarian
 Summer Co-Chair
 Technology & Cataloging
 Teen Librarian
 Trustee
 Trustee
 Trustee chair for 12 years.
 Volunteer
 Volunteer librarian, secretary of the board

Q4 How long have you been in this role?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

- less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- more than 20 years

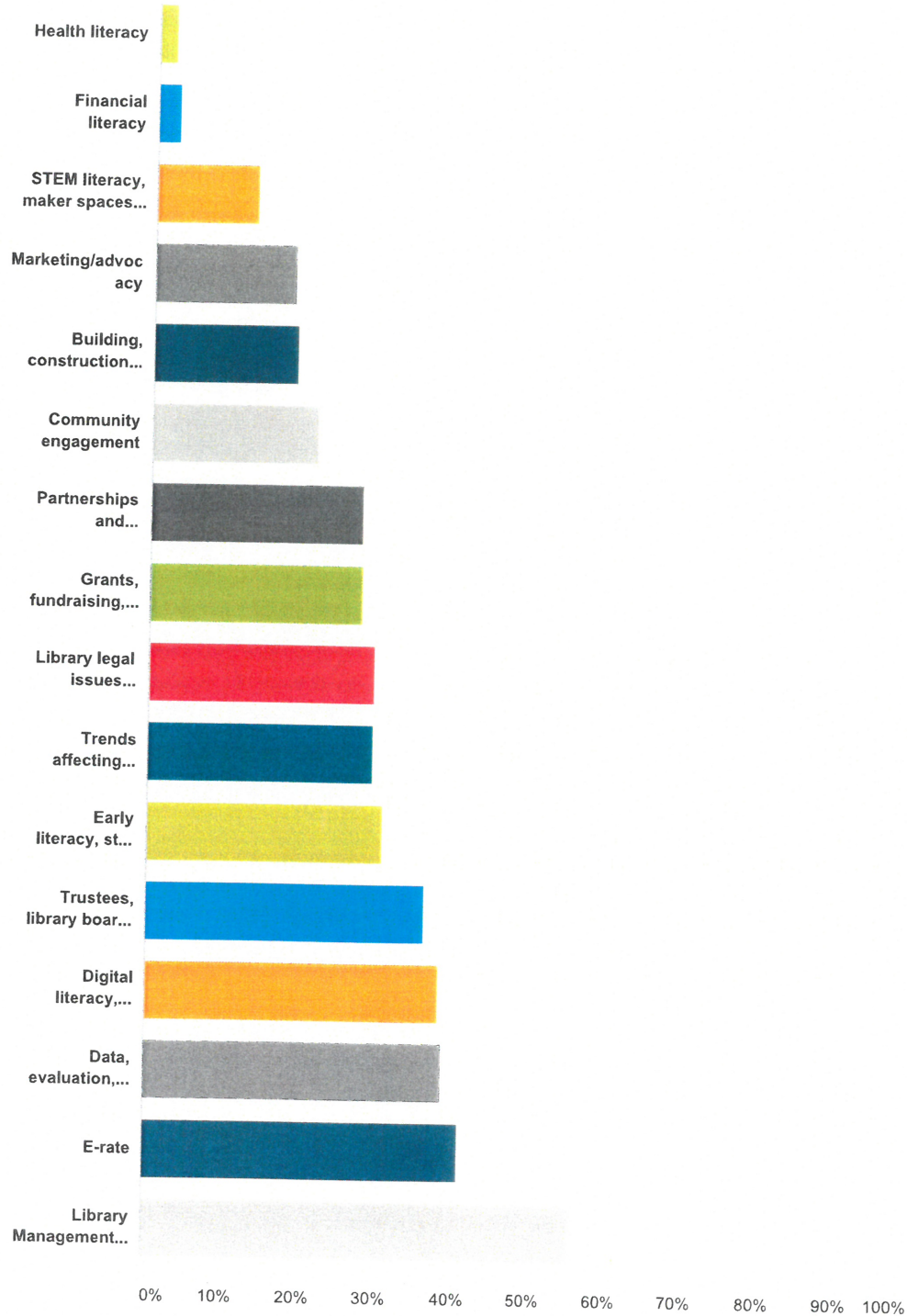
Total

Responses

4.62%	8
34.68%	60
23.70%	41
24.28%	42
12.72%	22
	173

Q5 Please tell us what topics you reached out to the consultants for help within the last 1-2 years. Choose all that apply.

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Consultants

Health literacy	2.31%	4
Financial literacy	2.89%	5
STEM literacy, maker spaces, etc.	13.29%	23
Marketing/advocacy	18.50%	32
Building, construction, space utilization	19.08%	33
Community engagement	21.97%	38
Partnerships and collaboration	27.75%	48
Grants, fundraising, capital campaigns	27.75%	48
Library legal issues (including questions about personnel, non-profit and municipal issues, and tax issues)	29.48%	51
Trends affecting libraries	29.48%	51
Early literacy, story times, etc.	30.64%	53
Trustees, library boards, governance	36.42%	63
Digital literacy, technology assistance	38.15%	66
Data, evaluation, statistics	38.73%	67
E-rate	41.04%	71
Library Management issues (strategic planning, policies, budget, etc.)	56.07%	97
Total Respondents: 173		

Q6 Please tell us what other topics, important to you, that you reached out to the consultants for help that are not listed in question #5.

Answered: 60 Skipped: 113

Please tell us what other topics, important to you, that you reached out to the consultants for help that are not listed in question #5.

5 for 5 book review Summer Reading

A person to be a sounding board.

Being a new librarian I have not had the opportunity to fully check out all the resources offered by the MSL, but am eager to see all that's available. I can definitely see all of them being of high value to any librarian or aide. I did just start the Voluntary Certification Program at the basic level and am very excited to do the classes.

Book group books - multiple copies in requestable bags
cataloging, weeding

Children's Book Review, Reading Round-Up, Friends of Maine Libraries consulting
Collaboration with historical societies; digital archiving; preservation
collection development

collection development, technology issues such as webpage development, QR codes, etc.
Connections with other librarians.

Continuing education

Continuing Education. Moral support.

Customer Service

Facilitating the Adult Services Librarian meetings to suggest topics of interest.

Future of the library

General encouragement and support for random issues.

Hands on technology assistance is extremely important to us as a small library.

Having a district consultant who is familiar with the library that I direct, and the issues we face is extremely important; I would not like to see the end of generalist district consultants

How to form an exit strategy for a librarian who needs to retire.

I am a new librarian and I just wanted to talk about several issues with someone at the state level. I also wanted information on librarian certification and recommendations for places to do internships.

I can't think of one topic--sorry--but as a small practitioner, it is really crucial to know there is one go-to person at MSL that I can ask about ANYTHING. She has visited my library and can answer accordingly. \

I have had very minimal success enlisting the district consultant. I would like to in the future find ways to get help and with programming and community engagement- and to create partnerships/collaborations with area libraries.

I have not reached out personally to a consultant. I know that the director of the library has and I am expecting that he will put the topics on his survey.

I have to admit, I under-utilize our consultant.

I was about to ask Valerie to guide me in dealing with my board of trustees.....

Info on online library schools Help choosing automation systems

job descriptions

Just knowing there is someone to talk to who knows my library and our area of Maine is helpful. There may not be a specific question or problem but just having a conversation with someone as knowledgeable as a consultant can be comforting and reassuring.

Librarian mentoring program, collection development strategies

Library interior design/best use of space

Networking with other libraries & Professional development

Networking with other libraries.

networking, professional development-- essential!

Online professional development (webinars, etc.)

personnel issues

Presenting data to town budget committees - the value of libraries - telling personal stories of how a library helped someone get a job, etc.

professional development

Programming resources and professional development.

Readers advisory

Regional and state meetings facilitated by consultants were helpful for professional development and well as face-to-face interactions. I serve on a committee with a consultant and presented a program at a meeting with another consultant. I don't see readers advisory on the list above or programming.

Although neither are new services, they are ones that the public associates with libraries and aren't going away.

Regional meetings planned by the consultant, free books (from publisher's reviews sent to consultant), news from the state level library doings and from the consultant's national level consultant connections, connections to regional funding sources, and introductions and connections to other libraries in the region.

Services for older population

Sort of around the legal issues option, but more related to online privacy-- an expansion of digital literacy, laws and such.

Starting a new job and get an idea of how a small library works in a community like this. Also with help compiling information for the MSL report.

State laws pertaining to employment

The existence of libraries as part of a community center with parks and rec.

The trends in Maine libraries--or just finding out what other libraries were doing Personnel issues (not legal)

To see if our library can get delivery service

User Experience, perhaps as part of the Digital Literacy/Tech Assistance line.

We contacted Valerie Osborne soon after deciding four years ago to try to start a new library in our town and she was a huge help, advising us on all the steps necessary to get established and be commissioned as a public library. She visited the library several times once it opened and continued to be a wonderful (and now greatly missed!) advisor to us.

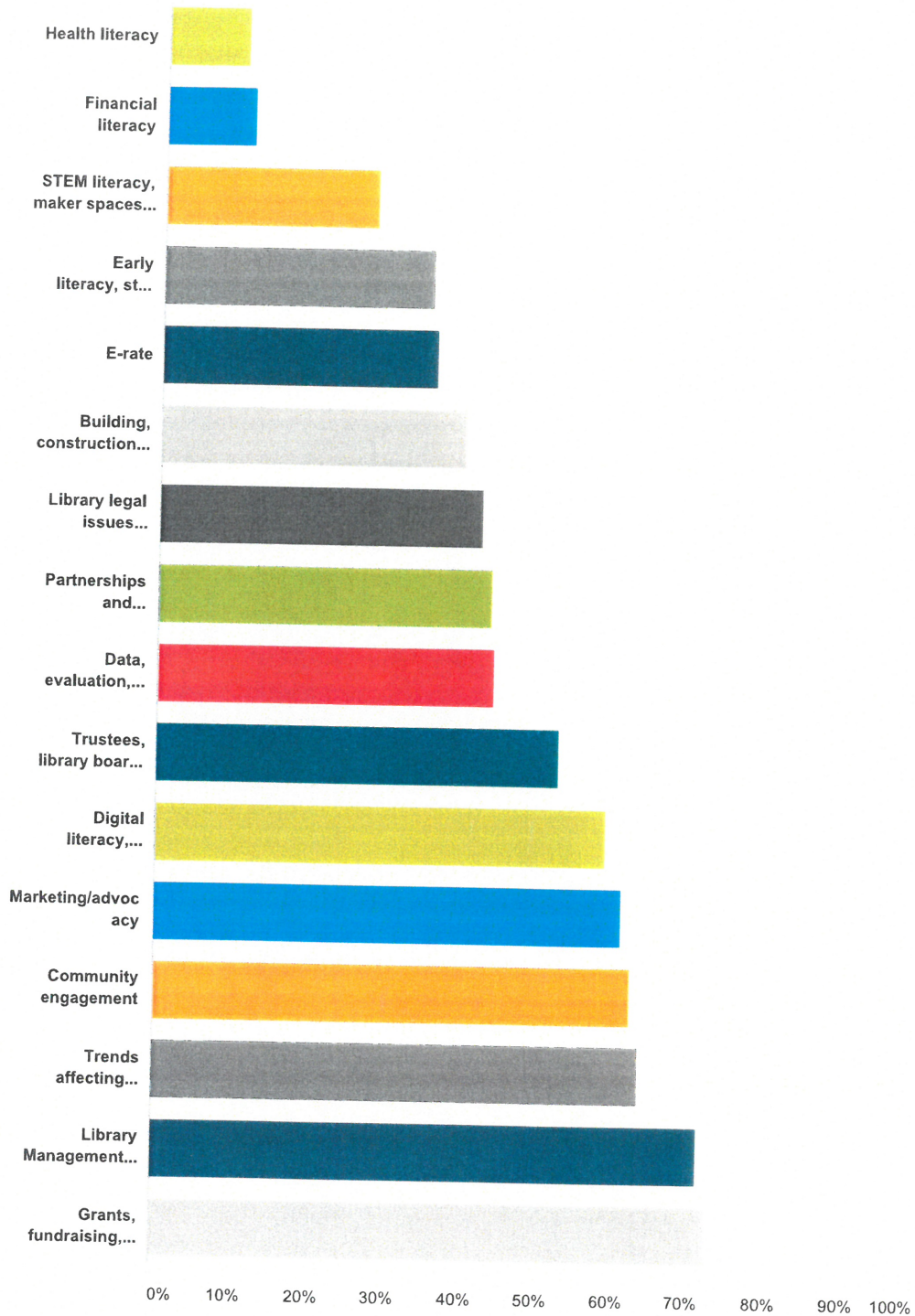
We shared about grants available to our community.

Youth services programming time management limited resources / collaboration or cohort creation

Q7 Of the topics listed in question 5 above (and listed below) please choose up to 10 of the most important as a subject knowledge area needed for you and your library going forward in the next 5-10 years.

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0

Consultants



Answer Choices

Health literacy

Financial literacy

STEM literacy, maker spaces, etc.

Early literacy, story times, etc.

Responses

10.40% 18

11.56% 20

27.75% 48

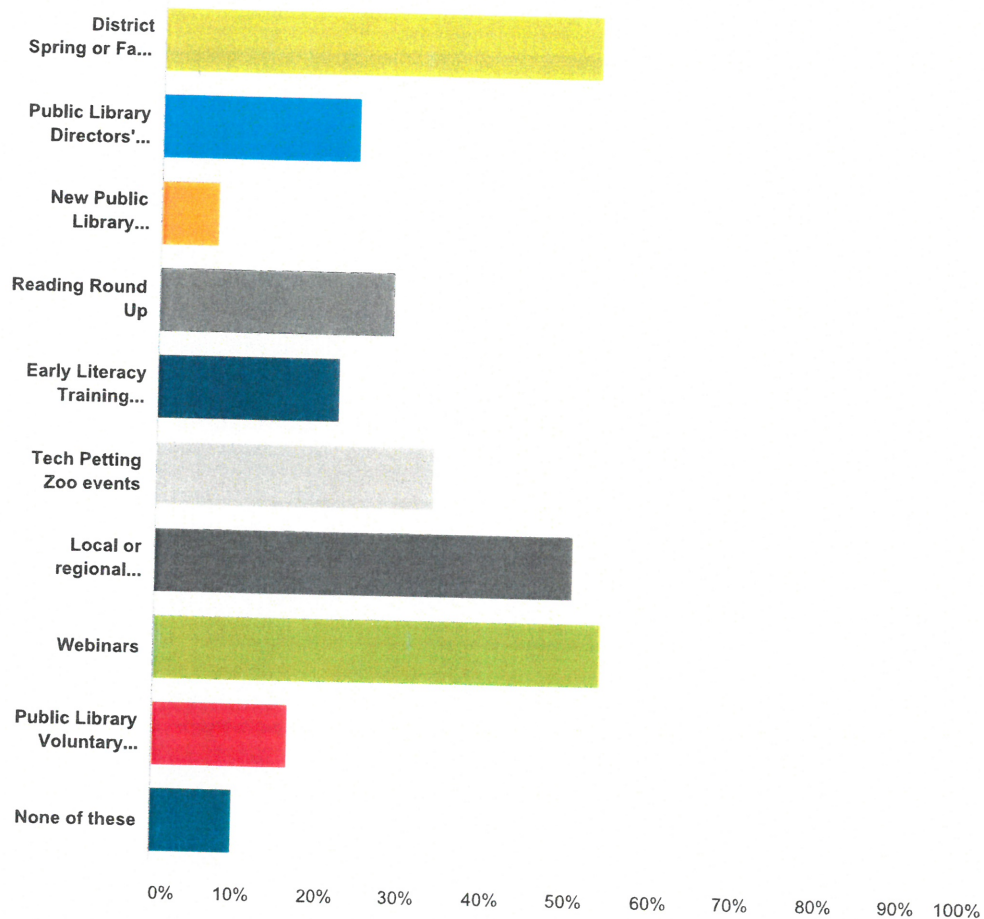
35.26% 61

Consultants

E-rate	35.84%	62
Building, construction, space utilization	39.88%	69
Library legal issues (including questions about personnel, non-profit and municipal issues, and tax issues)	42.20%	73
Partnerships and collaboration	43.35%	75
Data, evaluation, statistics	43.93%	76
Trustees, library boards, governance	52.60%	91
Digital literacy, technology assistance	58.96%	102
Marketing/advocacy	61.27%	106
Community engagement	62.43%	108
Trends affecting libraries	63.58%	110
Library Management issues (strategic planning, policies, budget, etc.)	71.68%	124
Grants, fundraising, capital campaigns	72.83%	126
Total Respondents: 173		

Q8 A significant part of the Maine State Library's focus in the Library Development Division is the delivery of Continuing Education and Professional Development. The consultants plan these events. In the last 12 months, have you attended or participated in any of the following (Choose all that apply):

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Answer Choices	Responses	
District Spring or Fall Council meetings	52.60%	91
Public Library Directors' Institute	23.70%	41
New Public Library Directors' Orientation	6.94%	12
Reading Round Up	28.32%	49
Early Literacy Training Programs	21.97%	38
Tech Petting Zoo events	33.53%	58

Consultants

Local or regional meetings	50.29%	87
Webinars	53.76%	93
Public Library Voluntary Certification Program	16.18%	28
None of these	9.83%	17
Total Respondents: 173		

**Q9 If you answered None in Question # 8
and have not attended any events, please
explain why.**

Answered: 20 Skipped: 153

If you answered None in Question # 8 and have not attended any events, please explain why:

As a trustee I was not aware of these. There is or was a trustee meeting but it was beyond my travel distance.

Conflict with other job

Funding can be an issue for rural schools ... and getting time away (especially if there is not support staff in the library), but, so far, my admin has been supportive.

Health issues

I attended district meetings in the past and have never found them to be worth the time.

I attended New public Library Directors' Orientation within the last 18 months. In addition to being Library Director I work part time elsewhere and have school age children. I wish I could attend more events though!!

I have attended some, but with public desk coverage it is often difficult to get away from the library.

I would love online programs geared to trustees...capital campaigns, grant writing etc. If they are available, I don't even know where to look.

It was scheduling issue not disinterest.

Librarian will not attend. I don't think it the Presidents job to attend.

Many seem irrelevant. Trustees made no response to my request for funds for one that did.

No funding.

No money, no time. I am the only employee and my budget has been slashed. only three of us working and if on a Friday, two of us are doing storytime downstairs, while third is working front lobby desk...

Our director did, I believe, attend some of these meetings, but she left suddenly.

Our library is on an island with limited access to the mainland, and is a volunteer library, including the director. I think the webinars will be very useful as we become accustomed to them.

Petting Zoo came to me and certification I do online. I have no transportation so I don't go to events

Several programs were offered during library hours and I felt I needed to be here. Other programs were not of interest to me.

These things have been to far for us to travel and with fundraising issues we just can not afford to go and with no one to fill in when needed that makes it hard for us to attend these things.

Very small library; limited scope

Q10 Do you have suggestions for any continuing education that would better suit your needs?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 126

Do you have suggestions for any continuing education that would better suit your needs?

A focus on the issues faced by small and very small libraries.

A repeat of the Black Belt Librarian training. As E-Rate shifts to funding internal connections, meetings on how to best use that funding. Maybe MARVEL training? A training session on mobile apps.

A variety of meeting days and times. A lot is centered on lunch in the very southern area of our district, which is impossible to attend.

At reading round up, I wanted a more high school focus and also an ability to have a "cool ideas" exchange. This would be a time to share activities, display, speaker, reader advisory ideas.

At this time, no. If my situation changes I hope to attend more of the events you offer as they are great!

Availability of online presence for meetings/workshops... as smaller libraries often do not have the staff available to cover for leaving.

Cataloging, new technology (circulating mobile hotspots & devices, new devices/software to have at library, etc)

Collection Development in the changing world of Online Resources. Community Involvement with Program Development. Offering Adult Literacy Services and Lifelong Learner Programs.

Continue to provide the opportunity to hear speakers from outside the state, exposure to new technologies and services and support for traditional services. Also provide in-person or options for online classes, links to webinars, etc. MELIBS is a very helpful source of information and input from consultants and experienced librarians on shared issues is a great benefit. This also substitutes for a Jobs board which has been helpful to staff throughout the state.

fewer trainings - consolidate the offerings

Grant writing refresher course. Dealing with difficult patrons for entire staff. First Aid. How to move on from Athena...We would like to have someone explain the best solutions for this and where, how to find it.

I am in most need of detailed, in-depth information on how to deal with e-books @ \$85 apiece with a small budget. It is a collection development issue. We have the state Overdrive and patrons use it but we are losing patrons because the state service has so many holds on it. I thought about the local Overdrive option but @ \$85 apiece it's too expensive. My patrons want the bestsellers.

I am retiring and our new librarian needs help with most library practices as she is not a trained librarian She loved the afternoon session.

I appreciate all of the online opportunities as my professional development budget has been cut to almost nothing

I have benefited greatly from the library events that have been offered.

I just recently found the Certification program and am excited about that. But now am excited about several other programs listed above that I didn't even know about.

I know Maine is a unique state with very different libraries in the North from the South, but having workshops on topics that educate librarians with a high degree of technology literacy is important, especially to meet the challenges and questions coming from our patrons and community, we need to be better equipped to handle them.

I need to learn how to troubleshoot my library computers.

I really see a great need for nonprofit management assistance, and I think possible collaborations with MANP would be good. Sometimes in the past when we were discussing personnel issues, the assumption was entirely that we all worked in municipal organizations, and the applicable regulations are very different between nonprofits and municipal orgs.

I would love one on Minecraft.

In our academic library we often have college students who may have an interest in pursuing a library career. How might we foster these interests? The same is true for library staff who do not yet have an MLIS.

Marketing--using the media, social media, displays--what works for who today. In-depth information. More technology training for the entire staff.

Need support for more collaborative opportunities / partnerships between school and public libraries. Non-profit management, volunteer support,

Not so much continuing education, but networking possibilities. I realized in filling out this survey that I have heard nothing about our district unless I was attending a meeting. There is no information proactively shared about board meetings, etc.

not sure... staff say they want specific job related skill based sessions because of limited access to conferences. Organizing files, photos, documents - a basic understanding.

Positive ways to represent the library in the wider community that is not library-friendly. When we tried to build in Waterboro, some folks were very negative about spending anything.

Regional meetings that do not require a whole day off and are not more than an hour travel time. 2-3 hours, focused on a single topic, with time for for sharing follow-up ideas with others in the local area.

something that would be a mixer for different kinds of libraries. Like - opportunities to collaborate across different library types.

Statewide events focusing on library management, working in the political arena, etc.

This does not really fit as CE but there is nowhere else to mention this - we need better statewide Public Relations and Advocacy for all libraries (possibly through MLA), and we need to work closer with MLA to promote librarianship as a profession

To have for example Public Library Directors Institute, Reading Roundup information and programs shared on the internet via webinar, you tube, pdf files for handouts for one-staff librarians who aren't able to attend some of these events. Just a thought.

To have things closer for those in Washington County.

Using statistics/data to advocate for the library

We need to learn more about future trends in libraries that very small libraries can apply to our needs and how these trends are important to our patrons.

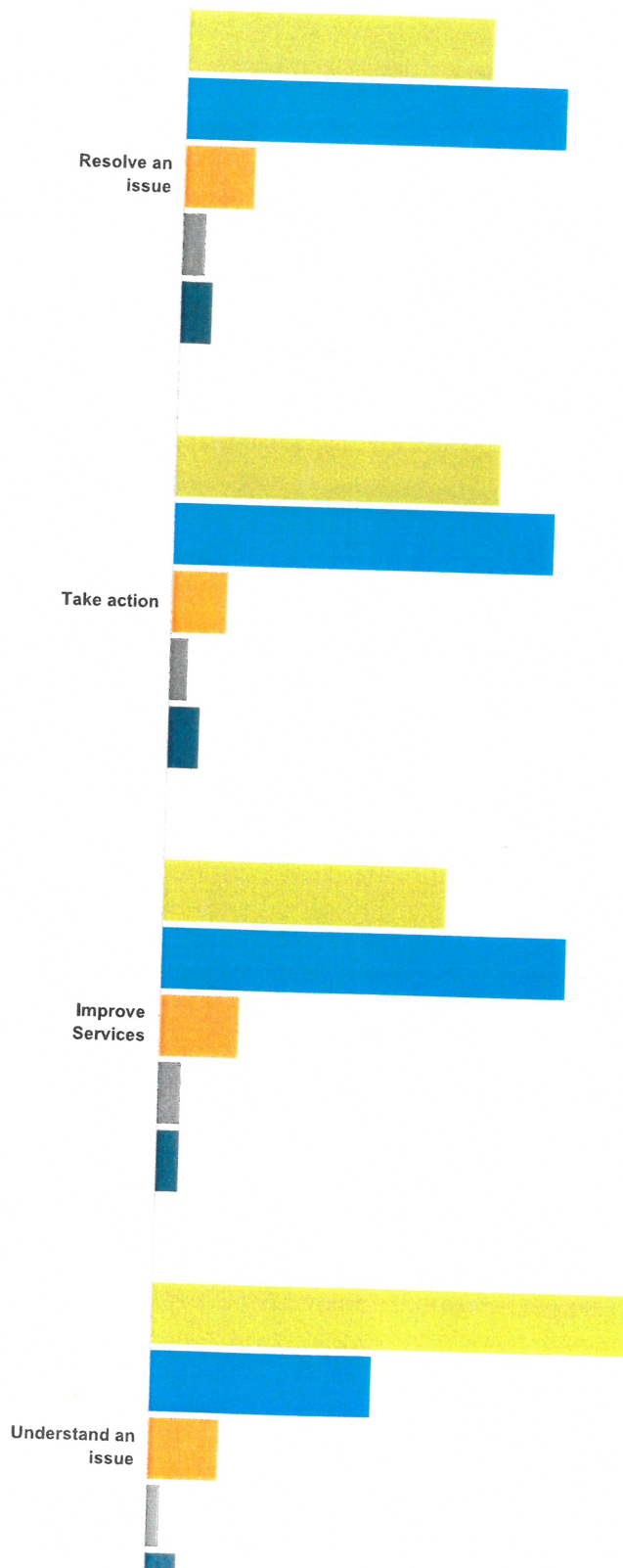
We would love to attend more, but the cost of travel and time involved makes it difficult to coordinate in a cost effective way. Its three hours, one way, to Bangor, were the nearest C.E. events are usually held.

Workshops where we actually do/work on some of the things suggested, such as formulating disaster plans, writing publicity, etc. Not as exercises, but real work. Time to do the task while the teacher is present would help with questions, and also prevent the problem of hearing it, thinking it's a good idea, and then going home and letting it languish under a pile of other things to do. More intensive and focused, less lecture.

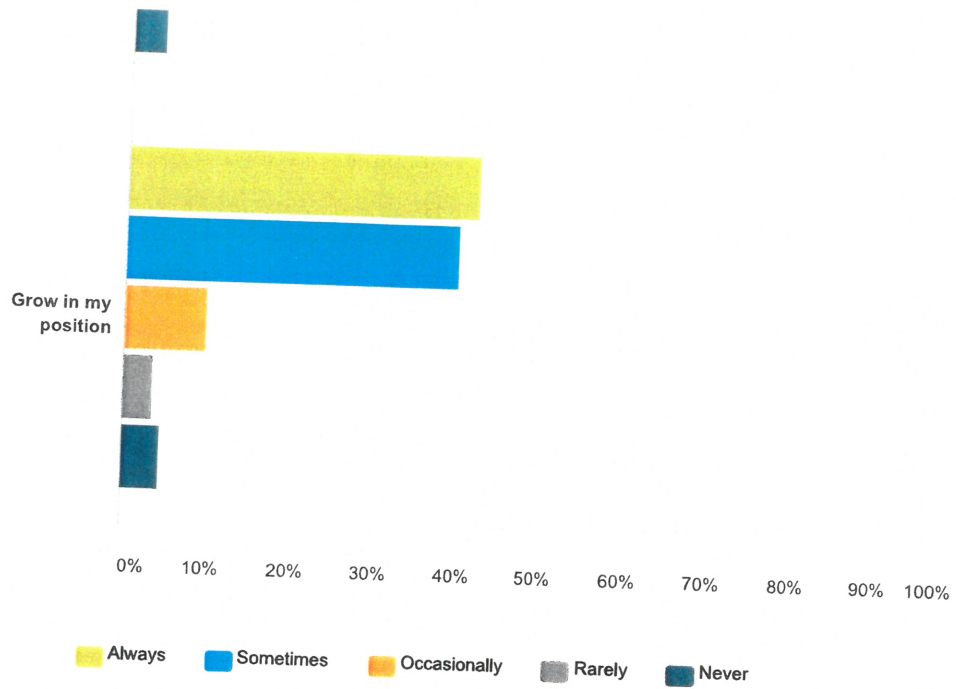
Yes, I think Maine needs to be more current in keeping abreast of Library trends.

Q11 Speaking with a consultant helps me to

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Consultants



	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Resolve an issue	37.57% 65	46.82% 81	8.67% 15	2.89% 5	4.05% 7	173
Take action	39.88% 69	46.82% 81	6.94% 12	2.31% 4	4.05% 7	173
Improve Services	34.68% 60	49.71% 86	9.83% 17	2.89% 5	2.89% 5	173
Understand an issue	58.38% 101	27.17% 47	8.67% 15	1.73% 3	4.05% 7	173
Grow in my position	42.20% 73	39.88% 69	9.83% 17	3.47% 6	4.62% 8	173

Q12 If you answered "Rarely" or "Never" in question # 11, please tell us what areas you are not receiving the help you need.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 154

If you answered "Rarely" or "Never" in question # 11, please tell us what areas you are not receiving the help you need.

A mid range answer is based on my years of experience and the depth of our library's professional staff not the value of the consultant overall - I believe our library is an outlier.

As a librarian in SMLD I've actually gotten a lot more assistance from the NMLD and CMLD consultants because of the topics we've discussed so I think the that taking out the regional aspect to let them focus on specialties is a great idea.

As I said before I have never reached out to our consultant , only have had brief conversations at conferences. Perhaps the consultants- if to be effective to all libraries should travel around more and be in contact with librarians like myself who program and engage with their communities . could have used some help during renovation/construction/relocation

I am delighted that the Early Literacy position was added at MSL. Hooray! The technology help is great, too. Guidance on construction/physical plant/space use; human resources/personnel; and how to meet a library's internal and public technology and computer needs would be welcome.

I have not needed help from the consultants.

I have not reached out to a consultant in my role, so I can not answer that.

I have not reached out to the consultant very much in the last few years. My perception is that their efforts are geared to the smaller libraries and that little is offered for the larger, service center libraries. This is no fault of the consultants themselves. I think it is the outdated system under which they work and a lack of focus or mission on the state level. This survey is a good first step in a long-needed assessment of the model we have had since the 1970's.

I haven't personally reached out to a consultant so I based my answers on what I have witnessed.

I really do not feel that I/my organization has much - if any - need for these services.

I've never asked a consultant about these things.

Just now learning about the availability of the consultants, but plan on using them in the very near future!!

Related to comment in question #10, it is challenging to relate a lot of the topics to what our community is seeking.

The phrasing of these questions are problematic. Rather than "understand" or "resolve" an issue and be the absolute authority, it is more likely that a consultant provides one or more different perspectives about an issue.

There's always room for improvement, but we feel we adequately deliver the services needed by our community and don't have much occasion to need help. However, it's very reassuring to know assistance is available just a phone call or email away.

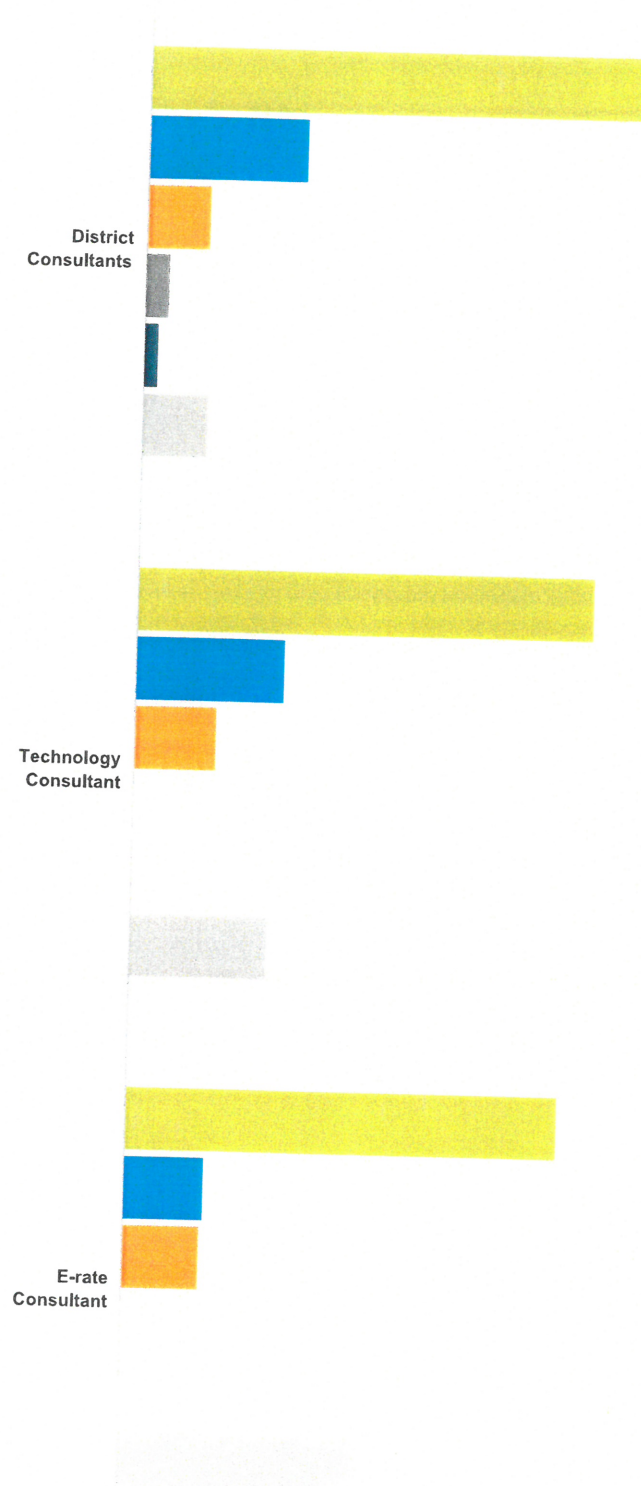
These are not my area of responsibility or activity, thus far anyway.

This is only because I have not reached out to a consultant.

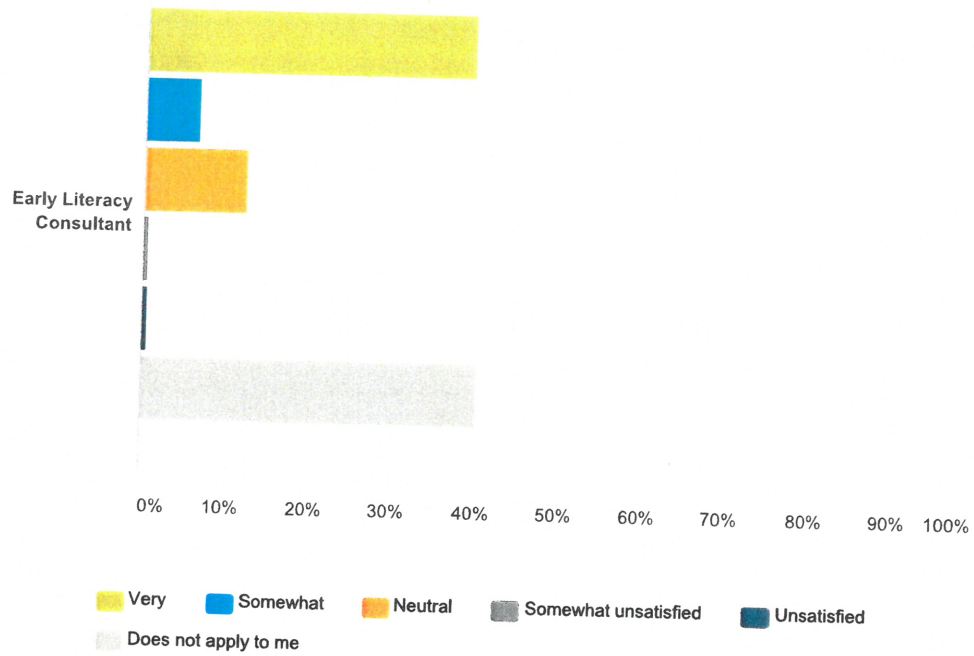
Consultants

Q13 Overall, how satisfied are you with the MSL's consulting services?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Consultants



	Very	Somewhat	Neutral	Somewhat unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Does not apply to me	Total
District Consultants	60.00%	19.41%	7.65%	2.94%	1.76%	8.24%	170
	102	33	13	5	3	14	
Technology Consultant	54.97%	18.13%	9.94%	0.00%	0.00%	16.96%	171
	94	31	17	0	0	29	
E-rate Consultant	51.74%	9.88%	9.30%	0.00%	0.00%	29.07%	172
	89	17	16	0	0	50	
Early Literacy Consultant	39.41%	6.47%	12.35%	0.59%	0.59%	40.59%	170
	67	11	21	1	1	69	

Q14 Think about a recent interaction with one of the consultants. Please tell us how the advice or guidance you received helped you resolve an issue, take action, improve library services or raised your understanding of an issue.

Answered: 111 Skipped: 62

Think about a recent interaction with one of the consultants. Please tell us how the advice or guidance you received helped you resolve an issue, take action, improve library services or raised your understanding of an issue.

A recent talk with Valerie help me to clarify an issue and someone to discuss options with.

A space utilization consultation was very helpful and we immediately made some positive changes in response and still have more to do.

Able to get advice about book club formation, policies.

Advise was given on how to make our circulation area safer and more efficient. We changed the direction of the check-out desk and made it ADA compliant.

Again, these are all good people with relevant skills. I think they could be better deployed with a project specific or subject area specific approach. I don't reach out to the consultant as much as I used to because I don't feel they can help me with the specific issues I've been dealing with in the last few years -- capital campaign, architecture, construction. That said, I know they are very helpful to the smaller libraries and newer directors who have more basic needs.

Any problem with the E-rate is better after having spoken with Jared Leadbetter. I have also been helped by Michelle Sawyer, and I found her to be easily reached.

Assisted in suggestions ways to improve a grant application.

Computer assistance.

Consulting with e-rate helped us acquire funding for our wifi infrastructure.

Could not attend a meeting where the new Trustees Handbook was handed out, but was told where to send for it. Very helpful.

Deb Clark provided some articles to help me defend building a new library as part of a community center as we meet with select board members about our new comprehensive plan action steps.

Director's meetings should be just that not a time to promote Maine Humanities or anything else. I stopped going because our group was disbanded without consultation with the group and the time was being used to reinforce MSL agendas. I need director-to-director time more than a repeat of what I get on Me-Libs and other listervs.

District consultant is a person I can turn too whenever I have any question about any topic. She knows who to ask and how to phrase a question so that I will get the most complete answer to my questions.

Early Literacy consultant encouraged us to get our story time back up and running. The children that attended throughout the winter have become regular patrons.

Early literacy training helped us take a better look at our children's programming and gave us food for thought for future planning.

E-books question E-mail question still pending

Every time I have had any contact with my district consultant at any time she has been a huge help.

Always responsive. She does her best to give direction but the rest is up to me.

Every year I need clarification and guidance to fill out the E-Rate forms. Jared Leadbetter is always helpful and gives me the correct information in order to fill out the many forms that E-Rate requires from libraries.

Have not had the opportunity to consult them yet, but now that I know they are available will definitely be contacting them. I hope this program never goes away.

Helped clarify the difference between lobbying and educating.

Helpful to be able to ask any question related to technology.

I am often in contact with our District Consultant and people from the State Library. I can't mention any one time in particular as there have been so many. E-Rate and MiFi issues with Jared. Computer and management issues with Janet. Management and Board Issues with Valerie. The list could go on and on. I asked Valerie Osborn on how to handle a patron who has caused issues in the library. Her suggestions were very helpful and gave me a different thought on how to handle the patron.

I attend Library / I.T. meetings in public libraries. These meetings make me aware of current library technology trends. They give insight into what more we can do in our library to better serve those patrons with technological needs.

I attended an Early Literacy workshop that has improved my story time skills. Also, I attended a regional meeting with a district consultant and was given helpful advice about a personnel issue. I believe Stephanie helped in all issues we discussed.

I called to speak with Deb about an issue we had with our local Adult Ed department. They were concerned about duplication of services and Deb offered some good advice about collaboration and smoothing the waters.

I completely understand the E-rate process. I wish I worked more hours to use the district and early literacy consultant. They share great resources, but I feel I'm not able to use much, working 15 hours per week and doing "everything" as director.

I could not manage e-rate without Jared. I could not maintain all of our computers without Susie Strout's guidance. Stephanie Z. provided great when we were grappling with policy up-dating. When I need a quick answer--for example, a Trustee asks me something about "what other libraries do when..."--a quick call to the consultant is efficient and a godsend.

I emailed with an e-rate question and was answered within the day. IT was a quick response that allowed me to complete my forms and get them off of my desk. I was then able to put them out of mind and move on with the next issue. You have to LOVE being able to put a period to paperwork.

I felt empowered to start promoting hotspots.

I found the suggestion to keep track of and report actual patron activities (i.e. - resume, unemployment, lost dogs, etc.) rather than just numbers of users to be a very good idea. I think it will be helpful when writing the annual report for the town - and for presenting the budget request.

I frequently call Jared for help with e-rate. He makes even the confusing government forms easy to understand.

I had a quick conversation at a meeting that helped me to clarify my thinking about a request that had been made of me and how I could convey that request to my board.

I have not received advice or guidance from a consultant.

I have only been in this job about 6 weeks; have met our district consultant and she seems great

I have only reached out to the district consultants, the technology and early literacy are recent positions. I did attend a petting zoo presentation with the technology individual. I appreciate the Rogue Librarian group very much. It tells me what is happening in other libraries our size.

I haven't contacted one recently but I can tell you every one has been very helpful and follows through to resolution.

I needed clarification on how to manage the patron database to be current and have my statistics be meaningful. I probably could have found the answer to how many years to keep a name before purging but it sure freed me up to get the answer from Deb Clark who also reminded me that Jennifer Melvin would know.

I rarely interact with the consultants, and have no examples. Sorry.

I was able to hear the (past) director of Portland Public Library talk about his sabbatical year and how that experience influenced some of the important aspects of library work ... which included time and space for creative THINKING about literature, community connections, collections, and programming I was inspired.

I was being driven crazy by an E-Rate audit. Jared told me what to do, reassured me, and even offered a plausible explanation of why we might be audited (we are a statistical outlier).

I was helped in filling out e-rate forms which helped me understand the issue and then be able to take actions successfully and thus improve our library services.

I was visited by Sherry Wyman which was wonderful because she reassured me that I moving in the right direction, offered technology assistance and updated me on several new things at the Maine State Library. I would consider interactions with consultants more along the lines of colleague to colleague, featuring collaboration and sharing. The interactions tend to be more informal than a request for services and depend upon the consultant having built a relationship over time. I also took an online class facilitated by consultants. I find that providing gateways or conduits to content, such as health resources is more important than providing the actual content themselves, with the exception of technology support and access to collaborative resources.

Improved statistics gathering, to be ready for budget hearings.

In the past the CMLD consultant made an effort to meet with area school librarians throughout the school year. These meetings were usually after school in one of the school libraries and were an opportunity to discuss a variety of topics of concern to those of us in schools. It was always helpful to hear suggestions and new info from the consultant and we looked forward to these meetings as an opportunity for professional development. I don't think this has happened in a number of years, unfortunately. It appears that the focus is primarily on public libraries, leaving those of us in schools high and dry.

Info on library schools helped a patron wishing to become a librarian.

invaluable help in the E-rate process. Grant writing assistance. Program development

It helped me focus on what could be changed and she offered several ideas that I hadn't thought of.

I've been here such a short time that I hadn't had much interaction with Valerie before she left. What little experience I've had with her and others has been positive.

Janet and Jared help tremendously with navigating e-rate and technology issues; I do think we need more support with tech issues (thinking of things like recommending wifi usage stats devices here - I am still very unclear on what to buy for my library)

jared has been very helpful to me as I sorted out the new e-rate program.

Jared helped me to evaluate whether or not it was in my library's interest to continue with the erate program. Also, Stephanie directed me to some data collection tools that were on the MSL website that I wasn't aware of. And those were just two of many interactions.

Jared keeps me on the clock with E-Rate filing, Shannon brings tremendous input and support for our Children's Librarian, and Deb connects us with various organizations for Genealogy based programming. Jared Leadbetter always is prompt in answering my questions that involve eRate so I can properly submit my paperwork.

Jared solved a problem I was having submitting an eRate form. I don't know what I would have done if he hadn't been able to fix it.

Just today I needed help in trying to balance a patron's needs with staff availability for reference. I got some great advice from Deb (and Janet) almost immediately. Quick replies is something that I can always count on. (I guess you all know who is responding!)

Last year, I had to replace all the public computers in our library. I called Jared for advice on what to look for and what to avoid, different options, etc., and his advice was very useful to me.

Many interactions with two consultants have been invaluable to the success of my efforts to breathe new life into a dying little library. Perhaps the most critical instance was Valerie meeting with our trustees to help me clarify issues and options. She met with us a second time to hammer out a grant proposal, then she helped me finalize and submit the application. Getting the grant has revitalized the trustees!

most of my guidance I get is for computer problems and my consultant helps me understand and fix my computer problems. I do use Melibs a lot for library questions and find this service a great help

Most of my recent interactions with consultants have been around the Technology Fair that I run, and the Maine State Library has been very helpful in supporting it with the logo creation, as well as having a presence there and bringing devices.

No recent interaction

Policy information that I was able to share with our board to revise our internet appropriate use policy.
Provided assistance in connecting with the Supercharged story time class.

Received technology advice from the Help Desk in resolving an issue with the computer. The consultant talked me through correcting the problem. Susie Strout then came down and took care of many issues which appeared when we installed a new router.

Recent interaction with Early Literacy Consultant resulting in improving our Story Time for young people, better understanding of how to set up Story Time and what resources to have available for children.

Requested help for a neighboring isolated library, received background about the ongoing issues with that library, heard suggestions for improving the library, was handed some of the consultant's stash of free books to take to library, now visiting the library monthly and feel that some progress is being made to improve the issues.

Shannon always provides great suggestions and ideas for storytime.

Shannon came and did a storytime at my library. It was a blast. I learned how to more intentionally include the "six skills" that help young children learn.

Shannon recently talked me (and a whole bunch of others) into doing the Supercharged Storytimes class. I was hesitant due to the time restraint, but Shannon was so passionate about this opportunity, and so informed, that I jumped on board with no hesitation. She even helped me figure out how to talk about it with my director. Having her on the cutting edge of what's happening in the youth field and fighting for Maine to be a part of all of those things has been a huge help to all of us.

Shannon Schinagl's ability to bring Supercharged Storytimes! to the youth services community of Maine has helped to improve my story times and connect with other youth services folks who have great ideas to share. So important to have someone with years of experience to bounce ideas off of.

Somehow, our iPad had gotten locked in a loop and wouldn't let me enter the passcode to undo the change I had made. The tech consultant called someone else (Janet I think?) and got back to me and solved the issue. YAY!!

Specific recommendations to keep our library in compliance with the E-Rate program.

Susie Strout is indispensable to this library. Her advice and assistance with technology issues always helps us resolve issues and improve service.

Technology consultant was extremely quick to respond to my query and had my issue resolved within five hours

The best interaction I have had is with the technology consultant Jared Leadbetter who does a great job with the Appy Hour and presenting to the public.

The best part of visiting or talking with a consultant is the ability to vent in a neutral place. Often after venting I can see things in a different perspective--usually the consultant has information to help me go forward.

The consultant gathered comparative information on library hours of operation that enabled me to convince our trustees and town manager that our hours needed to be changed.

The consultant had helpful resources related to outcomes. It is hard to keep up with trends while coping with day to day operations. It's helpful to have the consultant track and communicate these trends and resources.

The consultant helped me with very specific strategies in dealing with an issue. (Like many times and many issues before) VERY HELPFUL!!!

The consultant was the catalyst for developing Policies and Procedures.

The early literacy workshop helped to jumpstart our summer Story Time and really brought it back to life!

The E-rate advice/assistance is invaluable.

The new trustees' handbook is a great resource for both public and private libraries

The only recent interaction I had with a consultant was to ask Valerie about how to get a Webcam. She said she had one and she sent it.

The technology consultant has not been able to come to our library yet this year and that is a distinct disadvantage for us. And since we can't contact her directly, we never know if she actually received the message.

They helped me to wrap my mind around an issue...and I was able to move forward.

Those we have contacted are generally very helpful--Jared and Suzie Strout are great, Janet McKenney has been particular helpful, and Jennie at the BPL is always responsive. We don't see or hear from our District Consultant unless we contact her--and we don't often do so.

Through early literacy training, I have been able to improve the quality of the story times I am providing by including more techniques that will be beneficial to the children that attend story times.

Valerie has helped us understand the process of applying for a King grant. She also worked with staff and trustees to foster support for our summer literacy camp for children. It is expensive to run and we don't charge admission; she helped us convey the importance of it and early literacy.

Valerie helped me become compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act Policy from beginning to being compliant.

Valerie Osborne and Jared Leadbetter have both been indispensable in helping us to establish our new library and work through the challenges of filing state and federal forms such as e-rate, meet the guidelines to be commissioned as a public library, get approved as a nonprofit organization, set up a cataloging system, and lots more.

We asked Stephanie for help with salary information from surrounding libraries as well as other libraries in the state that were similar to our size. She was quick and extremely informative. We received the information we needed.

We depend heavily on E-Rate Consultants. Services clicked off below are due to forms we needed help with. We had hoped for more input than "Make your library a community center."

We need a new wireless router in order to take advantage of the faster internet speed. Jared told me what to purchase to meet new guidelines and also told me of plans for statewide initiative in the works so perhaps should wait to see what might be available soon.

we needed information about other libraries to present to our town. It showed the town the level of services we were offering.

We were thinking about doing a mass mailing and considering the implications of the new privacy law. The consultant informed me that using the patron database was not in violation of this law. This allowed me to approach the trustees and answer their questions about whether or not it was legal to do.

When a power surge took out our connection to the internet, Suzie Strout was a great help in suggesting what to buy to get us up and running again.

When I was undergoing major staff issues the consultant help me walk through the best approach to deal with the issues and gave me strength to continue to move forward in spite of staff issues

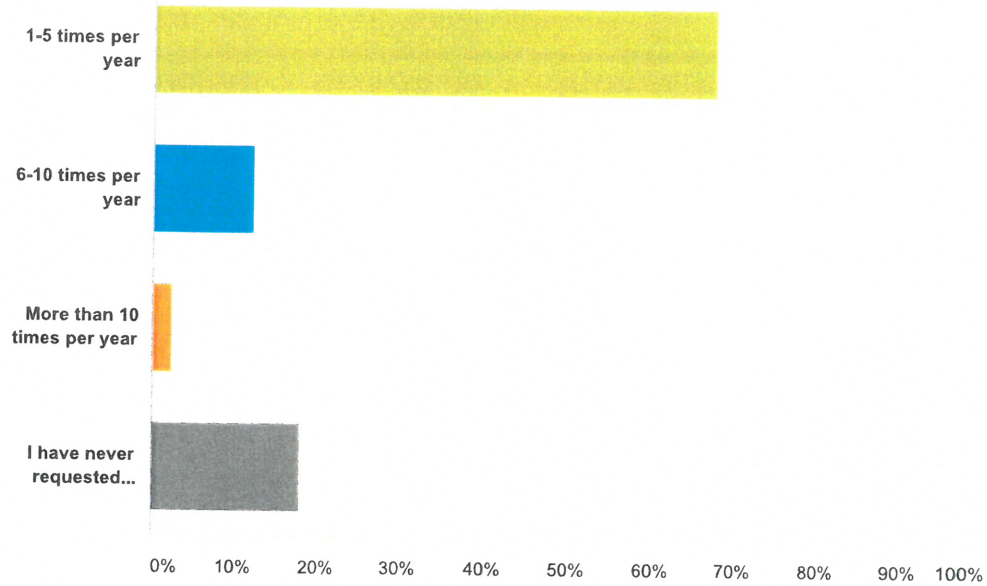
When Valerie Osborn tells "the story" on a program or project from her past, it motivates me to try something that I thought I couldn't do.

Workshop with Early Literacy consultant gave me enough practical information to finally offer a weekly toddler program. It is going well.

Consultants

Q15 Approximately how many times per year do you request services or a visit from a consultant?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



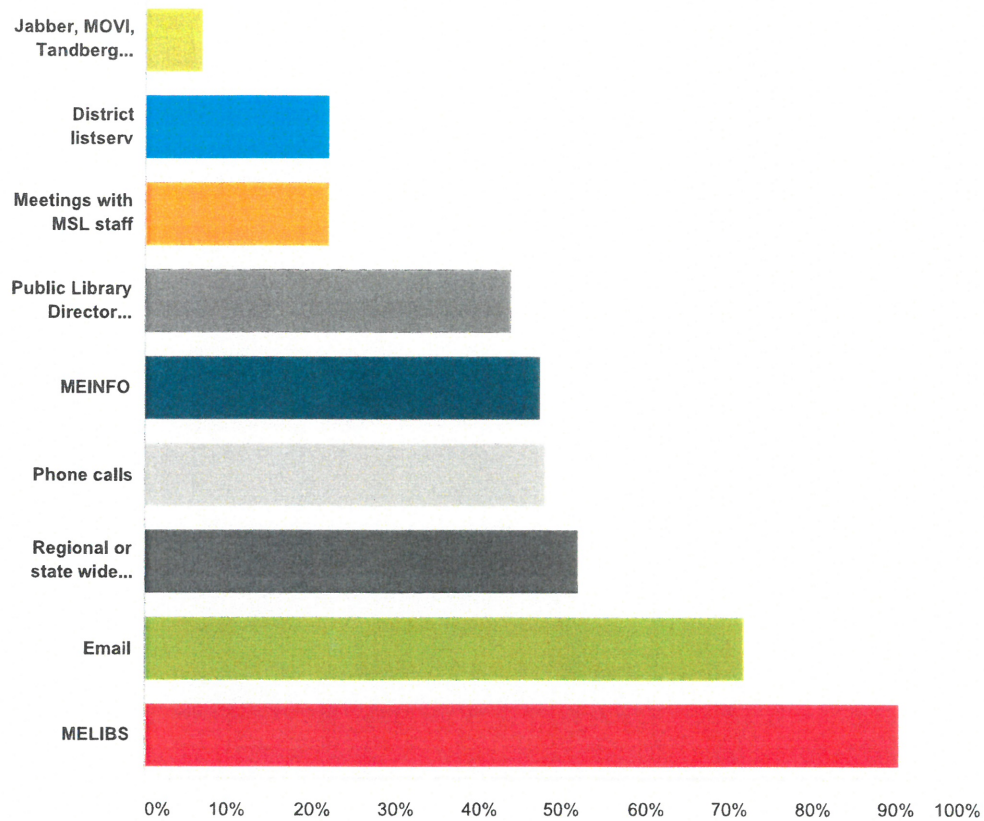
Answer Choices

Responses

1-5 times per year	67.63%	117
6-10 times per year	12.14%	21
More than 10 times per year	2.31%	4
I have never requested consulting services	17.92%	31
Total		173

Q16 How do you get information from the Maine State Library? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Responses

Jabber, MOVI, Tandberg videoconferencing, or Skype

6.94% 12

District listserv

21.97% 38

Meetings with MSL staff

21.97% 38

Public Library Director listserv

43.93% 76

MEINFO

47.40% 82

Phone calls

47.98% 83

Regional or state wide meetings

52.02% 90

Email

71.68% 124

MELIBS

90.17% 156

Total Respondents: 173

Regional Meetings

- Schedule
- Agendas
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Feedback Form
- Meeting Notes Summary
- Feedback Forms Summary

Regional Meeting Schedule

County	Meeting Location	Date	Time
Kennebec County	Maine State Library	3/15/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Lincoln County/Sagadahoc County	Topsham Public Library	3/18/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Cumberland County	Falmouth Public Library	3/22/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Androscoggin County	Auburn Public Library	3/25/2016	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Penobscot County	Bangor Public Library	3/28/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
York County	Springvale Public Library	3/29/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Franklin County	Carrabassett Valley Public Library	3/31/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Knox County/Waldo County	Belfast Free Public Library	4/4/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Washington County	Porter Memorial Library (Machias)	4/11/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Aroostook County	Washburn Memorial Library	4/13/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Piscataquis County	Thompson Free/Dover-Foxcroft	4/26/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Somerset County	Pittsfield Public Library	4/27/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
Oxford County	Norway Public Library	4/29/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm
School Librarians/MASL Symposium	Brewer High School	4/30/2016	9:00 am- 12:00 noon
Hancock County	Ellsworth Public Library	5/9/2016	10 am - 2:30 pm



Agenda

Regional Meetings - Improving Consultant Services and Realigning Districts for Maine libraries

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	MSL PowerPoint and Survey Overview
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Question and answers Addressing concerns Suggestions and recommendations
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:50 p.m.	Speed Dating with Specialists Attendees will meet individually (or in small groups depending on attendance) with each MSL consultant/specialist to learn more about what each person has to offer, specific knowledge areas and/or demonstrations. Seven minute sessions with each specialist
2:15 pm	General questions about specialist and MSL Staff Liaisons
2:30 pm	Wrap up and farewell. Feedback forms.



Agenda – Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft Regional Meetings - Improving Consultant Services and Realigning Districts for Maine libraries

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 am	Introductions and Overview
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 am	Early Literacy presentation – Every Child Ready to Read
11:45 a.m.- 12:00 noon	Question and answers
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	MSL PowerPoint and Survey Overview
1:45 p.m.	Questions and Answers
2:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m.	Overview of STEM initiatives and wrap up

Evaluating and Re-envisioning Maine State Library Consultant Services





Goals for MSL Consulting Services

- Relevant to the changing library landscape
- Measureable – actual outcome of interactions
- Something for all size public libraries
- Improvement of services
- Empowerment of directors and staff



Challenges with Regional

Consultants

- Size of districts (especially NMILD)
- Number of libraries per consultant
- Concentration on smallest libraries with less concentration on focused areas for help



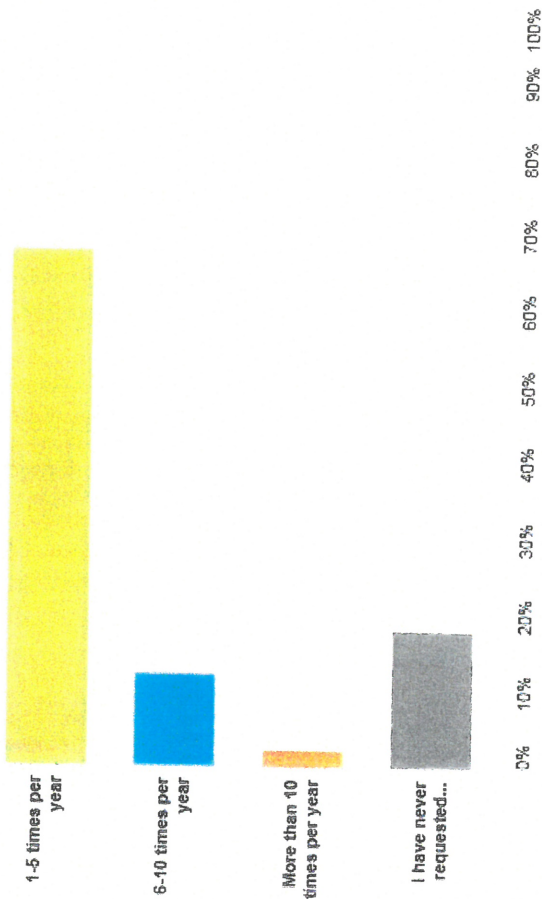
Responses from all counties

Answer Choices	Responses
ANDROSCOGGIN	3.47% 9
AROOSTOOK	4.05% 7
CUMBERLAND	17.34% 39
FRANKLIN	2.31% 4
HANCOCK	5.78% 13
KENNEBEC	6.94% 12
KNOX	7.51% 13
LINCOLN	1.73% 3
OXFORD	6.94% 12
PENOBSCOT	7.51% 13
PISCATAQUIS	4.62% 8
SAGadahoc	2.89% 5
SOMERSET	2.31% 4
WALDO	5.78% 13
WASHINGTON	5.78% 13
YORK	15.03% 28
Total	173

Number of Times Consulting Services were Requested

Approximately how many times per year do you request services or a visit from a consultant?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

1-5 times per year

6-10 times per year

More than 10 times per year

I have never requested consulting services

Responses

67.63%

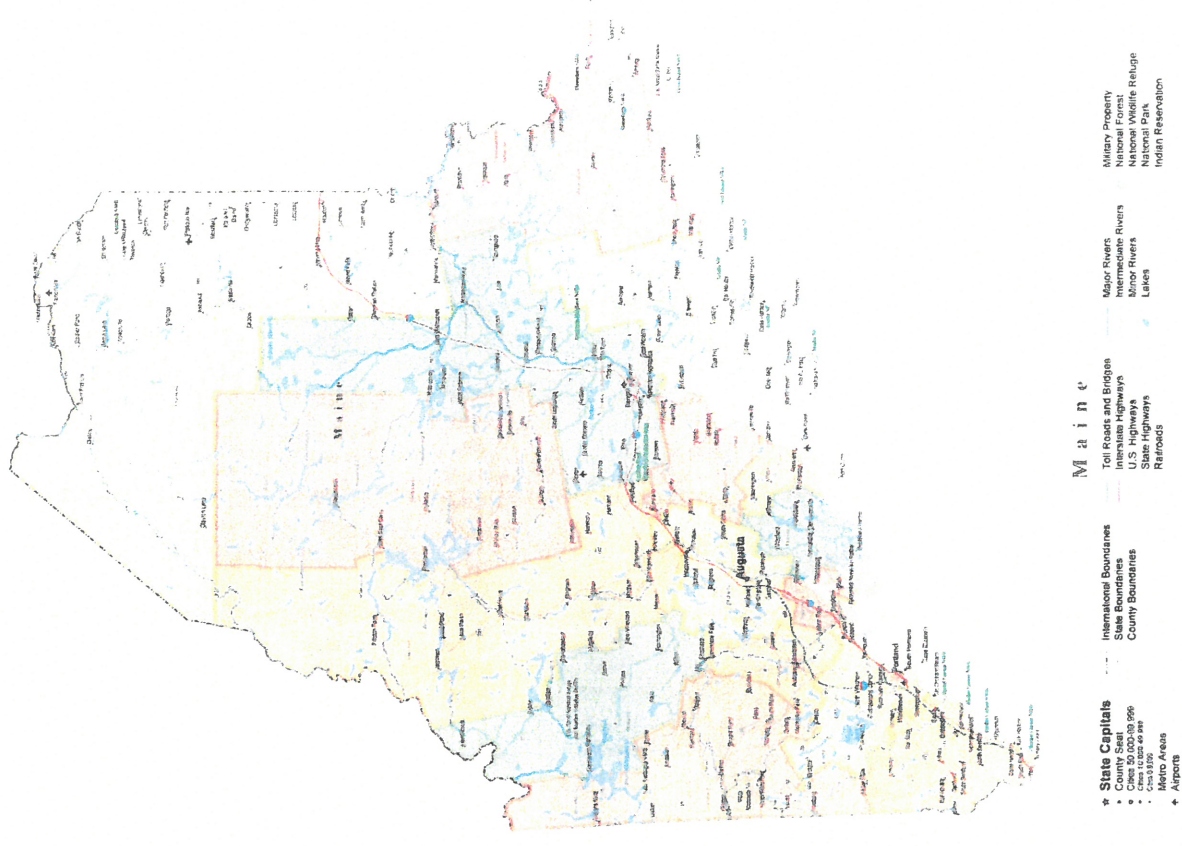
12.14%

2.31%

17.92%

A new model?

- County assignments
- MSL Library Liaison for each library
- Spread among 6-7 staff versus three
- Subject specialties and library liaison assignments
- 2 statewide convenings
- Statewide District board
- County visits from MSL staff





Support from the entire Maine State Library staff

- Library Development – Consulting, Continuing Education, Resource Sharing (Interlibrary Loan, Van Delivery, MARVEL, LearningExpress, Lynda.com, etc.) and Emerging Technologies
- Public & Outreach Services, Research and Innovation
- Collections, Digital Initiatives, Promotion



Questions, concerns, suggestions

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Twitter - [@janetmckenney](https://twitter.com/janetmckenney)

Evaluating and Re-envisioning Maine State Library Consultant Services



What the MSL Library Development Division does now...

Infrastructure support

- Interlibrary loan
- Van delivery
- Fund Maine InfoNet staff
- Fund Maine Infonet – Sierra, Downloadable, etc.
- Fund MARVEL databases – state, federal and MTEAF

Direct Support

- Continuing Education – Voluntary certification, Webjunction, Lynda.com, statewide and regional events
- Consulting services
- Other

Goals for MSL Consulting Services

- Relevant to the changing library landscape
- Measureable – actual outcome of interactions
- Something for all size public libraries
- Improvement of services
- Empowerment of directors and staff

Current Consulting Services

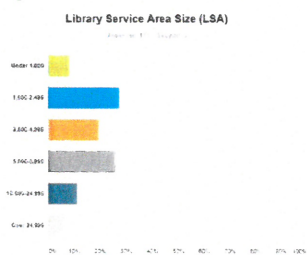
- Regional Consultants
 - CMLD
 - NMLD
 - SMLD
- Statewide Consultants/Specialists
 - Technology and E-rate Consultant
 - Early Literacy Consultant
 - STEM/Emerging Technologies
 - State Data Coordinator

Challenges with Regional Consultants

- Size of districts (especially NMLD)
- Number of libraries per consultant
- Concentration on smallest libraries with less concentration on focused areas for help

Initial Survey Results

- Over 170 responses – from all size libraries



Responses from all counties

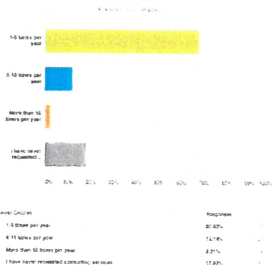
County/Category	Percentage	Count
ANDOVER	5.47%	6
ANDOVER	4.89%	7
CUMBERLAND	12.34%	12
FRANKLIN	8.34%	9
HARVARD	8.78%	12
KENNEBEC	6.34%	12
KNOX	7.51%	11
LINCOLN	1.22%	3
OXFORD	8.54%	12
PENOBSCOT	7.51%	12
PISCATAWAY	4.82%	5
SAGadahok	3.89%	5
SOMERSET	3.31%	4
WALDO	8.78%	12
WASHINGTON	6.78%	12
YORK	18.33%	20
Total		172

Respondent Information

- 61% In their role for 6-20+ years
- 39% In their role 5 years or less
- 69% of the responses were from current public library directors

Number of Times Consulting Services were Requested

Approximately how many times per year do you request services or a visit from a consultant?



Top items from survey – libraries want help with...

- Grants and fundraising
- Library management
- Trends affecting libraries
- Community engagement
- Marketing and advocacy
- Technology support
- Trustee relations

A new model?

- County assignments
- MSL Library Liaison for each library
- Spread among 6-7 staff versus three
- Subject specialties and library liaison assignments
- 2 statewide convenings
- Statewide District board
- County visits from MSL staff



Advantages of Statewide Consultants

- Focused topical/subject help
- Greater skills in specialties
- Ability to work with all size libraries
- MSL Staff of 7 + specialists will serve as liaisons – less libraries per person

Support from the entire Maine State Library staff

- Library Development – Consulting, Continuing Education, Resource Sharing (Interlibrary Loan, Van Delivery, MARVEL, LearningExpress, Lynda.com, etc.) and Emerging Technologies
- Public & Outreach Services, Research and Innovation
- Collections, Digital Initiatives, Promotion

Questions

- What would be the perceived impact of this change?
- How often do you use consulting services?
- What are your concerns about what will be lost?
- What do you think may be gained?
- How do you feel about regional meetings with MSL specialist in your county/region?
- How do you define consulting versus requesting information, training or guidance from a specialist?
- How can the MSL staff strengthen public library capacity?

Questions, concerns, suggestions

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Sample Agenda

Regional Meetings - Improving Consultant Services and Realigning Districts for Maine libraries

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	MSL PowerPoint and Survey Overview
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Question and answers Addressing concerns Suggestions and recommendations
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:50 p.m.	Speed Dating with Specialists Attendees will meet individually (or in small groups depending on attendance) with each MSL consultant/specialist to learn more about what each person has to offer, specific knowledge areas and/or demonstrations. Seven minute sessions with each specialist
2:15 pm	General questions about specialist and MSL Staff Liaisons
2:30 pm	Wrap up and farewell. Feedback forms.

Agenda – Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft Regional Meetings - Improving Consultant Services and Realigning Districts for Maine libraries

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 am	Introductions
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 am	MSL PowerPoint and Survey Overview
11:00 a.m.	Question and answers Addressing concerns Suggestions and recommendations
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Early Literacy presentation – Every Child Ready to Read
1:45 p.m.	STEM@MSL -- What's Up with that?
2:30 p.m.	Wrap up and farewell. Feedback forms.

Regional Meetings Attendance

Title	Date	Time	End Time	Location	County	Attendance
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/15/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Maine State Library	Kennebec	5
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/18/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Topsham Public Library	Sagadahoc	7
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/22/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Falmouth Memorial Library	Cumberland	9
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/28/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Bangor Public Library	Penobscot	15
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/29/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Springvale Public Library	York	17
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	3/31/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Carrabassett Valley Library	Franklin	7
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/4/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Belfast Free Library	Waldo	13
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/11/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Porter Memorial Library, Machias	Washington	13
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/13/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Washburn Memorial Library	Aroostook	8
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/26/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft	Piscataquis	9
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/27/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Pittsfield Public Library	Somerset	6
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/29/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Norway Memorial Library	Oxford	6
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	4/30/2016	8:30 AM	12:00 PM	Brewer High School	Statewide	10
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	5/9/2016	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	Ellsworth Public Library	Hancock	14
Regional Meetings: Consulting and District Services	5/10/2016	10:30 AM	3:00 PM	Auburn Public Library	Androscoggin	8
Total						147

Regional Meeting Feedback Form

Date: _____

Meeting Location: _____

Suggestions, recommendations, or concerns regarding change in service delivery from regional to statewide:

Other comments regarding the meeting:

Do you need additional information? Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Did the meeting provide you with enough information? Yes ____ No ____ Mostly ____

What additional information do you need? _____

Please provide name and email if you would like us to contact you:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Regional Meetings Staff Notes Summary

Consultant Services Re-structure

- Like to have a person to call on phone
- Need more ILL back-up than BPL can provide
- Want to keep local directors meetings for news and support
- Agrees with Lankes' Atlas to gather a pool of experts to draw upon
- Maybe Jabber digital support groups for directors
- MSL partner with MANP, MMA, MAM, Lift 360 for consulting services
- Want to be able to join any local librarian meeting groups, even outside their region
- Include local meeting groups in MSL directory (announce meetings on MELIBS)
- Maybe move away from ARRC model to more local area "service center" model
- Like Mentor ME list
- Need more YA services support (happens now as part of RRU, MASL, and YS groups)
- Need more school/lib partnership support
- A lot of consulting happens at local directors meetings so less individual contacting of consultants
- Concerns about losing "personal" connection with current consultants, "they understand my library"
- Loss of someone to be convener for local meeting groups
- Would re-structure affect Book Review and RRU? Janet says no
- Support for statewide district and board to save people from meeting fatigue
- Travel distance to meetings and conferences important, meetings always in Augusta difficult
- Still like local directors groups
- Formula needed to balance population density and geography for distribution of consultants
- Have back-up support people in regions
- Don't want to lose ability to network with colleagues
- DOE needs to add back true school library consultant position
- Instead of district boards, specialty boards? (Lib IT, Comm Engage, Adult Serv, YS)
- Assign each new director a mentor
- Want tech support person to visit twice a year to clean up desktops, install updates, etc.
- Maybe a paid tech support person for needy libs to share
- Urging MSL to promote advocacy for libs with municipalities (MSL can't advocate, only educate)
- After re-structure would services be consistent among regions?
- Need for school lib consultant
- How does the new model help solo librarians who can't get coverage to attend meetings, blogs for communication?
- Want once-a-month updates from MSL
- Support solo librarians stay informed
- Directors want to meet in person for regular quarterly meetings
- Concerns about tech support, securing WIFI networks (passwording admin functions)
- Regular messages on MELIBS- "is your library doing...? Helpful hints
- Match new librarians/directors with mentors

- Leadership opps for young librarians
- Would like to understand MSL budget
- New model seems like a lot of work for consultants
- District and regional meetings have allowed colleagues to get to know one another better and partner on projects/programs- would the new model negatively affect networking
- Questions feasibility of 16 county MSL meetings once or twice a year
- Can we incentivize regional groups to meet on their own
- Lib coverage will be an obstacle to attending meetings
- Can outreach or meeting groups center around libs or similar size?
- Mondays good day for meetings since many libs are closed
- Can MSL contract/put on retainer expert consultants on building project management, legal questions, financial issues, etc.?
- Can state resources for computer ergonomics and tech security training be used?
- Libs need more social worker services
- Concern about new directors knowing who to ask about what- need welcome wagon approach
- MSL staff seem very approachable
- By MSL staff joining regional meetings, it helps smaller libraries transition and evolve
- They recognize to meet as a local group on a regular basis (for updates, discussion, support)
- Think new model will be an improvement
- Regions should be based on self-identity rather than county--Northern Aroostook has different culture and needs than southern Aroostook
- Archive educational webinars for access later and have those on one page of the MSL website
- Improve the MSL directory of specialists
- Supply packets for new trustees on MSL services
- From Deb Clark- Add section to trustee manual on MSL services
- Install ticket system to handle questions asked of MSL staff
- Offer remote participation in regional meetings (video conf, teleconf, etc.)
- Supported model of subject specialists
- Like the idea of a liaison assigned to each region
- Some felt driving more than an hour to a meeting was burdensome
- Many local libraries are already helping/supporting each other
- For some small libraries it's difficult to add on additional meetings, events, and projects on top of daily duties
- Send letter to boards and directors with contact info for their liaisons
- Prefer "specialist" or "advisor" over term "consultant"
- Develop workshop on how libraries should react to community changes like mill closings, immigrant influx, economic downturn
- Think new model will be more efficient
- Like MSL coming to their regions, less driving for them
- Like removing regional layer to get to MSL more directly
- Want directory/spreadsheet to see which specialist can best help them
- Want more data training
- Want centralized ILL

Feedback Form Summary

MSL- Augusta (Kennebec)

- Excellent Info sharing; speed dating not efficient
- Little change in this model – as long as people are accessible
- Like that new model is geared to libraries of all sizes
- Very informative

Topsham Public Library (Sagadahoc)

- Excellent-Good news; Loved chatting with everyone
- I think it will be a positive change; I think there is a lot of untapped talent in the state that can be utilized cross-library
- Great face to face time; it is easy to think of the state library as this official scary thing, knowing how approachable everyone is - huge help.
- Just don't leave the human factor out! Encourage everyone in the profession to get involved
- Great space, great food, great information, wonderful company. Will be contacting MSL staff for future meetings.

Falmouth Memorial Library (Cumberland)

- Seems like a good idea. I definitely see the value of this system.
- I support the idea of statewide specialists. Please consider that our needs include non-library issues such as HR, facilities management, community outreach and economic development
- This was a worthwhile day! So glad to get further acquainted with MSL staff and be a part of this restructuring discussion. Agreement among all the participants that the time is NOW.
- I would be glad to help this discussion move forward.
- I'd like to comment on the MSL website – it is difficult to find what I need unless I use the search box.
- Breadcrumbs don't always lead back to anywhere. Can't find Shannon.
- Very thoughtful discussion

Bangor Public Library (Penobscot)

- I still have concerns going from a regional to statewide. How will the change be implemented? Time it will take to get all libraries up to speed on the change – if it comes, especially small libraries?
- I like the idea of focus group according to library size – could that also be a way of dividing state consultants?
- Need info about e-rate and wireless routers – will contact Jared.
- I like the specialist concept. Nice to get together for important discussion.
- Very informative, thank you.
- How about creating stipend positions for each county to facilitate meetings/support?
- Hate to lose the possibility of having consultants visit individual libraries and make recommendations
- Like the idea of specialist! Do find it important to have regional or county “point” people. In meeting consultants I learned that I didn't know what questions to ask of when, so that regional person who can say “talk to ___” is still very important I think.

- **Concerns: Disconnection**
- BUT more video connection? Could we have county wide directories of libraries and their software, special offerings, staff and what they'd be willing to be contacted about?
- Some specialist conversations raised more questions so I will have to talk to them.

Springvale Public Library (York)

- This seems like a good working plan and trims meetings and admin to free people at all levels to address work. Some of the measurement stuff, logic models for programs etc. are just too much for the smaller level library. Good information and a lot of it new. I didn't think we should forget face to face meetings though webinars are more accessible.
- Specialists -Yes! I'm glad to hear stated goal to serve libraries of all sizes. Make consultants available to staff as well as directors. Thank you for soliciting input!
- I think it is going in a good direction. I would like to see if there are ways to bring Maine InfoNet more into the fold. They seem to operate on their own, only answering to a few and not to everyone overall.
- I think this could be an efficient change but would request that a very clear contact list for the reps of various subject areas is communicated to us. I have no doubt that MSL would do this but had to say something! The meeting was well organized and informative. YayYYY MSL! Need information about how the implementation will proceed, the expected launch dates and the new contact list.

Carrabassett Valley Public Library (Franklin)

- No questions; Lots of great info. Very helpful. Need to meet with Jared. Considering Van service.
- I think this plan makes a lot of sense. I like the idea of more regional meetings. Would like to **make sure there is still plenty of support for small libraries.**
- Wonderful opportunity to network w/area libraries as well as with MSL staff.
- It sounds like the new system will be more inclusionary; I thought this meeting was very informative. I was able to get many resources that I will be able to use to better service my students.

Belfast Free Library

- Do not lose the face to face meetings of librarians with one another; Great way to get informed and get to know MSL staff
- Make sense to me. I appreciate the specialist services already available as well as the relationship w/"my" consultant. It sounds as though both of those will remain intact in some form but be improved upon, so onward! This was very helpful and informative.
- It was wonderful to meet all of you from the state library face to face and to learn about all the incredible resources and services that are available. Would like to be able to come to the new director's meeting orientation in June.
- Great energy and discussion; Thank you for doing this-if there is anything I can do to help...
- I think this is long overdue. I really like the liaison idea and I like the subject specialties. I realize that you don't have enough people for everything but hopefully through partnerships it will work out. I love the speed dating.
- Multiple specialists sound good. Support for solo libraries on procedures and technology in particular.

offer sub pay or mileage, send attendees home with free stuff. Thank you. Do this again next year with other consultants so we can meet all of them.

- All positive information and discussion

Pittsfield Public Library (Somerset)

- Great concept. Fully support the change. Wonderful meeting. Very informative. Was unaware of all the available support from MSL. Help with specific aspects of the library – programming and support.
- I like the statewide idea! I think this presentation shows that the Library Development staff is a forward thinking group who truly has the best interests of the public libraries (and their staffs) at the forefront of this planning. I have been a public library director in Maine for 9 years – we have “new” resources, updated resources and excellent help and support. Thank you. Thank you!
- Love the thought of still having one person we can talk to; excited with all the changes! *Loved* the speed dating. Very informative. Learned much I didn’t know.
- Good idea – excellent group and subject advisors will be more beneficial to me specifically and I think to most other libraries as well. This meeting was extremely informative. Some of the services I had never heard about. I look forward to investigating several of them.
- Taking time to do this right is the right course. The speed dating really made clear to me the specialist model. I loved it.

Norway Memorial Library (Oxford)

- I think this is a great idea – well thought out and well presented. I appreciate the effort made by so many MSL staff people to get out and discuss this with us.
- Sounds great. Well thought out. Create a simpler format to navigate.

Ellsworth Public Library (Hancock)

- Balance information so both municipal and 501 (c)(3) libraries are served equally as well. It was a good meeting. Need more info on grants for services for adults and kids. More about availability and access to e-books and how we can put them in our catalogs.
- It sounds good if we really know who to call and have access to a person who can talk to. I really need grant writing support – a standard we can trust for etiquette and rules – plus sources. I can’t take time away from Children’s programs to attend meetings – therefore don’t interact with state library resources as much as I would like. Really enjoyed “speed dating”. Janet is great –really clear presenter.
- I have heard much today that sounds great. I think a major concern is that **small libraries (mostly NMLD) not get left outside the system – If every library has a liaison this will be a big help.** I think there are a lot of students in schools who don’t use their public libraries until after school. Libraries need interaction. Speed dating was GREAT!
- Go for it! Thank you for taking the time to come and meet with libraries all around Maine. Loved the speed dating idea.
- I am **worried that the specialists are stretched too thin to cover the state in a meaningful way.** The meeting was very helpful. It gave us a chance to express our concerns.
- I’m glad the state library is looking at doing things a new way. Very informative – I learned a lot about the role of the MSL.

- Really like the idea of small library groups of “like” libraries. Each group having a mentor at state library. I like the idea of specialists vs consultants. Very informative.
- I would prefer the statewide liaison/specialist model to the regional as it stands. I also like the idea of having smaller group meetings at service hubs to connect to other librarians and specialists. I got more out of this (as a recent MLS grad and new director) than annual conference and NMLD meetings (although both of those were great).
- I like the idea of liaisons and specialists over consultants although either way you guys are great. I really enjoyed the speed dating as a networking tool.

Porter Memorial Library – Machias (Washington County)

- I am new to this, so am not prepared with questions. Good format – a mix of PowerPoint and opportunity for questions. I need to prioritize and decide what to tackle first.
- To me this almost sounds like an advisor might be assigned to each library. The advisor would help the librarian find answers to questions, resources, etc. Nice to see other people from our region facing similar challenges. A chart who does what Nelson Eubanks, Janet McKenney, Adam Fisher, Susie Strout
- Very helpful. Leaving with lots of ideas.
- Great meeting. Need Board training.
- Great to be able to ask face to face questions
- As long as we can email or call and talk to a real person about whatever we need help with. I am happy with the change. I realized that there is a lot I don’t know anything about – the meeting helped me get excited about learning more. Janet was talking about a Directors 101 course. I’d like to look into it.
- Lots of fun-a pleasure to spend face to face time with MSL staff. I need to understand the practical application of new technology. Thank you!
- Sounds sensible. It is a good though to have a go to person. Space for meeting was too small.

Washburn Public Library (Aroostook)

- The information presented is exciting. Rural libraries are isolated and opening more opportunities nearer to home is a vast improvement. Have a phone tree type contact sounds great also.
- The Maine State Library has been very open and helpful with its services. Today is bringing it to our area in a different reality that will help us and encourage us to grow and try different programs. Great meeting.
- I love the idea of specialization. I think this will work well. Very helpful
- Very good and informative
- I feel the new model will better serve the needs of our small rural libraries and for the state.
- Looking forward to the new changes – dynamic and creative. Excellent.

Thompson Free Library – Dover-Foxcroft (Piscataquis)

- Very helpful information all around though much was beyond my ability to grasp. It is helpful to have a clearer picture of the whole system process. Thank you! There is much I need to learn!
- Communication from MSL is essential. Contact between libraries needs to be encouraged. Continuing Education is needed. MSL and programs and consultants need to be visible. You can always meet here.
- Shared drop offs for van service for schools and public libraries in one town. Regional mini-hub meetings twice a year focused on local needs followed by district meetings, provide CEU credits,

- Speed dating was loud, fast, brief, a little overwhelming – would have preferred presentations by each consultant to the whole group
- Really enjoyed the speed dating opportunity. Great chance to learn more of what is available...hidden gems!
- We don't want to lose a personal contact person like we had in Valerie and before her Benita. The specialists are a great idea but we need a clearing house person to point us in the right direction often. The idea of reviving Hancock County librarian meetings for school, public etc. inclusion is good. We had a group 20 years ago but it fell apart. The meeting was very informative. It was good to be able to put a face on all the names we see on email & to be able to understand their specialties.

Auburn Public Library (Androscoggin)

- I think the idea of specialist with contact people is great. It makes sense to me and I don't see a down side. The speed dating part was really helpful. That concept would be done at many conferences and PD events.

Executive Board Retreat Minutes

CMLD – June 24, 2016 at Winslow Public Library

SMLD – July 15, 2016 at Southern Maine Community College

NMLD - July 29, 2016 at Bangor Public Library

Annual Meeting of the Central Maine Library District Executive Board
Friday, June 24, 2016
Winslow Public Library
Minutes

In attendance: Art Turley Holly Williams Evelyn Greenlaw
Mike Dignan Pam Bonney Rita Moran Stephanie Zurinski
Janet Bolduc Jamie Ritter John Burgess

Absent: Lori Littlefield Janet McKenney Alison Maxell

Pam Bonney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:25am. The board presented the consultant with a beautiful geranium as a thank you gift. The consultant presented the board with gifts as well as a thank you for their hard work, dedication and willingness to serve.

Rita moved and Mike seconded to approve the consent agenda with one correction to the annual report. Holly is from Pittsfield not Oakland. The motion carried.

Old Business

Advocacy Campaign

Pam reported on the rollout of the Libraries Transform advocacy campaign. We provided posters to 130 libraries at a cost of \$703.49. We discussed ideas for spending the rest of the money (\$4,297):

1. Banners on the van delivery trucks: Freedom Express uses 60 vans in Maine. Pam got estimates for banners: \$80 for an 8x2 and \$150 for a 10x3. Jamie suggested contacting Freedom Express to find out the 3-5 most geographically dispersed roots and put 2 banners on each of those trucks. The banners will say "Maine Libraries Transform Lives". Cost \$1500-2000.
2. A contest for libraries to develop PSAs with a \$500 and two \$250 prizes. The Maine Association of Broadcasters helps with PSAs. The idea is to get librarians to develop videos of patrons stating their very own "Because" statements. All submittals would be the property of MSL and we could do mashups from the entries. Cost: \$1000
3. Contributing to a survey that Jamie has commissioned about Maine librarians. Jamie researched the claim in the Pew study that librarians are one of the most trusted civil servants. It turns out that Pew extrapolated that conclusion so Jamie has asked a Portland based research firm to give him estimates on the cost to conduct a survey. We would donate the remainder of the dedicated \$5000 to this survey. That amount is approximately \$1300-1700.

New Business

Discussion of the role and composition of a state wide board

Questions:

- How will the members of this board communicate with their constituencies?
- Will there be a formalized process?
- Are we replacing the three district consultants with 12-15 'cheerleaders'?

Ideas:

- Recruitment has to clearly state the expectations and mission of this board. It must be charged to do something and held to task.
- Board meetings could begin with reports from MSL specialists so that the board could advise MSL on priorities

- The first charter should be to identify what's important, barriers to library excellence. This group could drive the standards discussion
- A clear hierarchy must be identified as to how this board interacts with the commission
- Must establish bylaws
- No more than 12-15 members
- All parts of the state represented
- All types and sizes of libraries represented
- Members should wear multiple hats (ie. represent both a library type and a geographic area)
- Could the new board represent constituencies rather than counties? HSLIC recently dropped their requirement for regional representation on their board. For example: Academic, Special/Health, small rural, medium rural, large libraries, school libraries. If there were two representatives of each type of library from geographically diverse areas that would make a board of 12. There should also be representation from community members so perhaps three 'at large' positions could be drawn from the traditional district boundaries to make a board of 15.
- This board should report to the commission at their meetings
- Must be recognized as a legitimate body by the commission
- Could be named Council Advising Libraries in Maine (CALM)

There being no further business, Pam called for a motion to adjourn. Mike moved and Holly seconded to adjourn. The motion carried.

CMLD Association Meeting

Pam called the meeting to order at 11:25. Rita moved and Mike seconded to approve the minutes of the last minute. The motion carried. Evelyn moved and Rita seconded to file the treasurer's report.

The board directed the consultant to tell James Jackson Sanborn that we are closing the books and to send him a check for \$5000 to help with the MILS conversion by November 30, 2016

Rita moved and Mike seconded to pay for a two day registration (approximately \$250) for 20 people from CMLD to attend the MLA conference in November 2016. An application process will be used. Janet Bolduc offered HSLIC's application as an example as well as MLA's. The money will be awarded on a first come/first served basis. The motion passed.

Mike moved and Holly seconded to donate any remaining funds after November 30, 2016 to the Friends of the Maine State Library. The motion carried.

The board discussed drafting a resolution to dissolve. The CMLD Association Board resolves to dissolve the CMLD Association with all assets being distributed as documented above by December 31, 2016. Mike moved and Holly seconded that the resolution be accepted. The motion carried. Mike, as treasurer, will take care of all associated paperwork.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

SMLD Board Retreat

July 15, 2016

SMCC

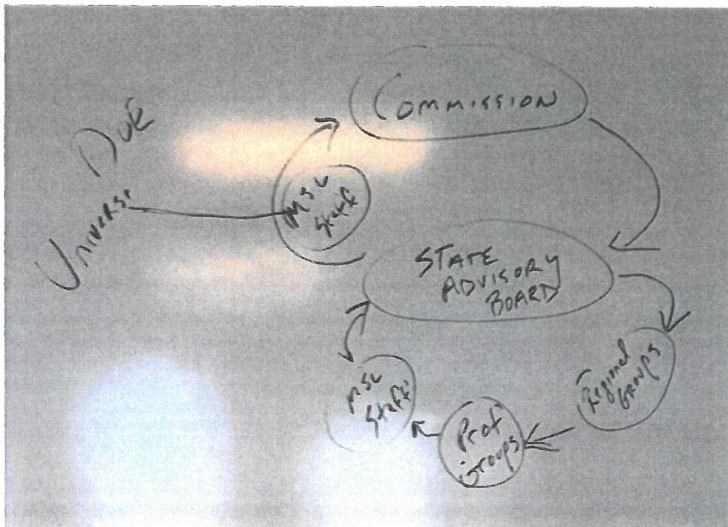
Present: Kristi Bryant, Jeff Cabral, Sarah Campbell, Deb Clark, Beth Dyer, Amanda Kozaka, Janet McKenney, Jamie Ritter, Chip Schrader, Karen Silverman, Beth Sweet, Bill Wood

Absent: Susan Flaherty, Jill Kehoe

Recorder: Elaine Bissonnette

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

- Minutes from March 11, 2016 – unanimously approved
- MRLS District Board Visioning/Statewide Board Structure
 - Jamie gave a brief history of the MRLS
 - Jamie drew a quick diagram of the possible relationships among a new statewide board and other library organizations in Maine



Jamie's drawing

Some comments during the discussion:

- District Board should be advisory to MLC
- MLC sets policy for MSL which impacts MRLS
- Recommend 12-15 statewide member Board with feeder groups from regional meeting groups
- Maybe a rep from each county, MASL, MLA, HSLIC, Island Institute, other lib orgs?
- There is lack of representation from the more rural libraries, difficult for them to participate, there's still a digital divide in state
- Recruit from current district Board members and then fill in gaps – consultants can help decide, task force sub-committees, how often should they meet, term limits – stagger terms.
- One Commission rep on statewide Board with an alternate?
- New model – county assignments?
- Geography still needs to play a part- rural vs. urban library needs
- We should still have local group meetings (reference, IT, public library directors, YS, tech serv, etc.)

- In other states, regions are different than in Maine's
 - Board purpose- should discuss what's needed for shared support for Maine libraries, what do we want to build for state-wide infrastructure, systems, shared resources
 - Board is more grassroots local library representation to communicate issues up to MLC and to MSL
 - Board should be considering library, societal, technological trends
 - Video conferencing sites/ universities serve as tech hubs
 - Create a tech team to help libraries with computer updates, issues, etc.
 - With consultant specialty structure it might make sense to have a Board that aligns with specialties
 - Other MSL staff may have a specialty, such as Emily Schroder (genealogy), etc.
 - Create model that is flexible to adjust – adaptable to environmental changes
 - Communication - MASL has been working on communication groups. This would also be good for MRLS. We should look into software for this & how we can pay for it.
 - Looking for solution to meeting virtually via the cloud to accommodate in-person and virtual attendance at state-wide meetings, Jamie's investigating this.
 - Collaboration with Academics
 - Collaboration with nonprofits MANP, MMA, & DOE
-
- MSL report- Janet McKenney reporting:
 - Working on report to Commission regarding MRLS restructuring
 - Held Regional meetings on Consulting and District Services throughout the state in the spring. Top needs were:
 - Regional outreach – bring training & MSL staff to the regions
 - MSL staff liaison for each library
 - Consultants w/subject specialties
 - MSL consultant w/rural library specialty to be hired
 - MANP & MMA collaboration – Janet looking into all public libraries becoming MANP members
 - Planning for Trustee training Maine Infonet conference in 2017
 - Partnership with Maine STEM coalition
 - Libraries Transform project – publicity will be sent to libraries via van delivery
 - IMLS – Janet's report was approved with some suggestions which may change how we do this moving forward. Restructuring of specialty consultants will fit better with new LSTA reporting requirements
 - Met with MASL about school library reports. 50-60 schools will do one this fall and will recruit more schools next spring
 - Project Outcome – data & evaluation, measuring impact on summer reading, digital literacy, etc.
 - Leadership – Stephanie & Janet have been meeting with Maine Community Foundation
 - MSL staff attending RIPL conference in Denver at end of September
 - Will have a RIPL data conference in Maine next year
 - Two positions to fill
 - Librarian III – specializing in rural libraries (NMLD)
 - LSTA/Section Supervisor

- ARRC report
 - Sarah Campbell updated the board on two policies PPL recently revised concerning:
 - Erate/CIPA compliance
 - Weapons in the library
- Consultant Report
 - SMLD Annual Report will be posted on the MSL website, note especially the impact statements
 - Progress of Goals & Objectives included in the report

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



SMLD Board getting some fresh air at SMCC, Spring Point:

Left to right- Kristi B., Jeff C., Amanda K., Bill W., Janet Mc., Beth S., Deb C., Beth D., Karen S., Jamie R., Chip S.

Absent- Sarah C., Jill K., Sue F.

Northeastern Maine Library District
Executive Board Retreat
July 29, 2016
Bangor Public Library
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracie Boucher (Tanberg), Laurie Carpenter, Janet Elvidge, Ruth Eveland, Helen Fogler, Debbie Lozito, Ruth Mare', Barbara McDade, Janet McKenney, Jenny Melvin, Jamie Ritter, Lisa Shaw, Kathy Upton

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Ruth Eveland, Board Chair.
2. **Housekeeping:** Secretary for the day: Jenny Melvin
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of last meeting approved at Spring Council Meeting
4. **Discussion of district boards and history:** Jamie Ritter/Janet McKenney

New Statewide Board Feedback:

- Original purpose of the NMLD still remains the same.
- Bylaws combined to streamlined – remember the reason is communication. Communication and education piece is key
- Regional meetings and communication paramount
- Board that represents regions that are smaller
- Reps from MASL, MLA, etc.
- Each region has a rep on the board
- More of a communication than a voting position
- Working with other people outside – we don't want to duplicate people on multiple boards. Too many of same people on same boards now.
- Communication between all three boards lack communication and lots of duplication.
- What will this board do? Adhock committees to tackle some of the issues like standards?
- Would like to see something like a County library day where libraries close so staff can meet and network.
- Consultant assigned to each region should work with a librarian who meets with groups and if the group doesn't meet then consultant goes and visits libraries. Sharing and the support is so important. Make it the job of this person to make sure libraries get together.

- Don't want to lose the personal contact. Knowing people are there.
- Each group would be represented on the board.
- Don't want to lose the big meetings either.
- Some people are kept away from meetings because of financial constraints and lack of confidence. Maybe we can partner up with a neighboring library and give stipends to travel to meetings.
- Cluster groups we used to have were really important would -like to see those come back and be active.
- Would help if minutes of each regional meeting were posted online for libraries that couldn't come would know what was happening.
- Libraries so diverse and they need meetings for connection.
- Help member libraries serve constituents = still be our mission Fostering continuum of lifelong library patrons no matter what kind of library (academic, school, public, etc)
- Opportunity to network and find out what others are doing.
- Maybe each group has same agenda
- Commission members travel to different meetings
- Scholarship for travel for libraries – seen as critical
- Visiting seen as really important to draw in smaller libraries
- Making sure we stay true to what libraries are and do beyond bylaws and missions
- Boards mission to have input not necessarily task driven
- MLC could make decision on who should take on particular issues identified
- Circle looks like = Commission, MSL, Library Development, Consultants, Pods or groups, Board that then circle back around

Number of board members:

- Someone from each group be on board
- MASL, MLA should be on board
- Needs of libraries so diverse, so each of the regions have representative
- 12-15 suggested

Proposed Name:

- Leave word "Board" out...want name that implies it is active, evolving with a participatory expectation
- Think Tank
- Council
- Pods

Should the first board be made up of existing boards?

- Need to have assigned reps.
- Established board members for first statewide board

Location of meetings:

- Meetings should move around and be located in different locations
- Do more online

Time frame:

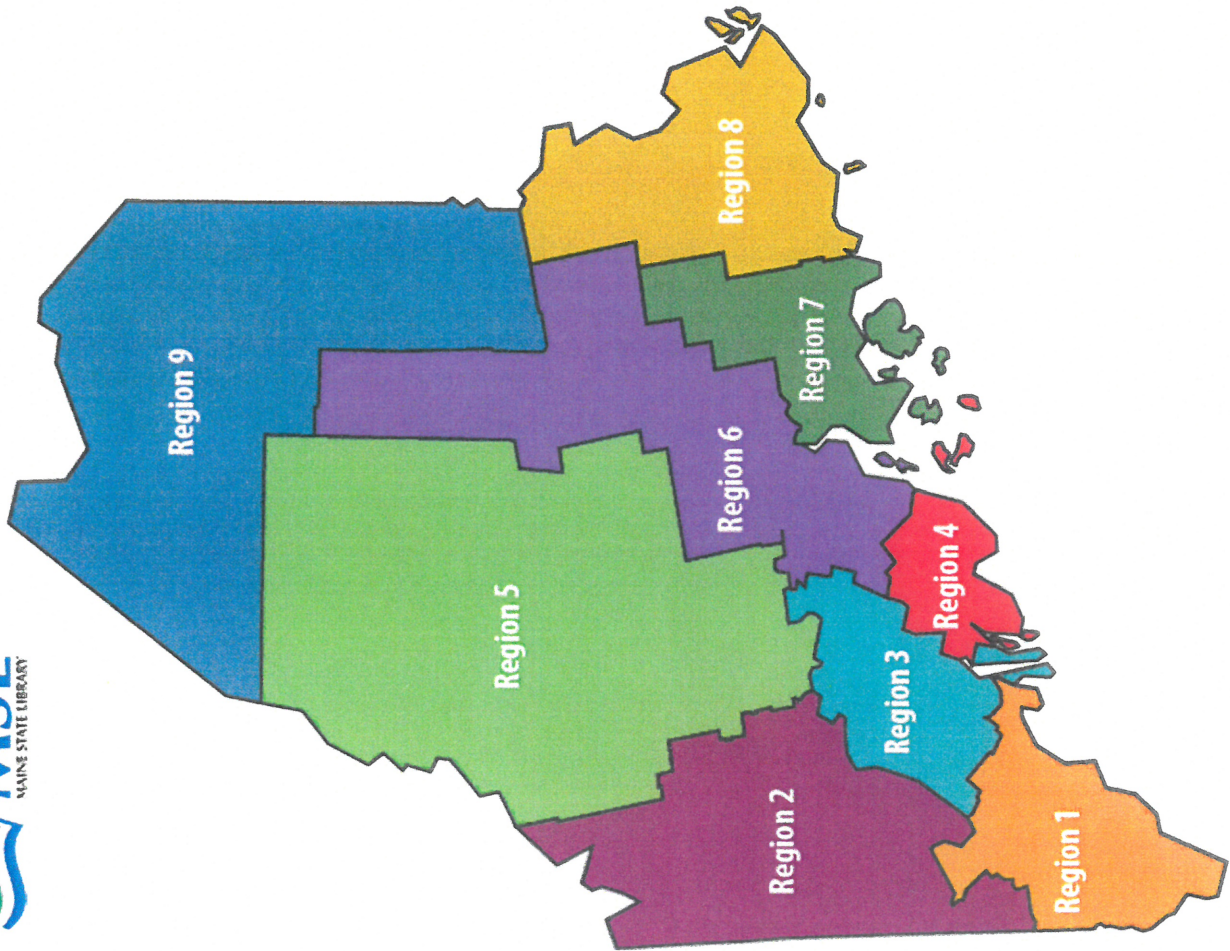
- Commission will meet and discuss in September
- Looking to have first statewide joint council meeting at MLA in November with a very reduced fee

Kathy Upton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ruth Mare' and the meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Melvin



New Regions with MSL Staff Liaisons



County	Region #	Liaison
CUMBERLAND	1	Deb Clark
YORK	1	Deb Clark
FRANKLIN	2	To be hired - Librarian III #2
OXFORD	2	To be hired - Librarian III #2
ANDROSCOGGIN	3	Stephanie Zurinski
KENNEBEC	3	Stephanie Zurinski
SAGadahoc	3	Stephanie Zurinski
KNOX	4	To be hired Librarian III #1
LINCOLN	4	To be hired Librarian III #1
PISCATAQUIS	5	Chris Dorman
SOMERSET	5	Chris Dorman
PENOBSCOT	6	Jenny Melvin
WALDO	6	Jenny Melvin
HANCOCK	7	Jared Leadbetter
WASHINGTON	8	Lisa Shaw
AROOSTOOK	9	Lisa Shaw

Maine State Library Subject Specialist List

Specialty	Primary	Primary	Secondary
Adult Services	Deb Clark		
Annual report (PLS and Schools)	Jenny Melvin		Stephanie Zurinski
Baxter the Cat	David Warren		Cheryl Ramsay
Books by Mail	Chris Boynton		Jim Roy
Building and Space Utilization	New Specialist or contracted		
Children Services	To be filled by Early Literacy/Children's		
Community Engagement	Stephanie Zurinski		Deb Clark
Construction Projects	New Specialist or contracted		
Continuing Education	Stephanie Zurinski		Janet McKenney
Data and Evaluation	Stephanie Zurinski		Jenny Melvin
Digitization and DPLA	Adam Fisher	Peggy O'Kane	
Digital Literacy	Jared Leadbetter		Lisa Shaw
Download Library	Maine InfoNet		Jared Leadbetter
Early Literacy	To be filled by Early Literacy/Children's		
E-rate	Jared Leadbetter		
IMLS STEM Leadership Grant	Janet McKenney	Stephanie Zurinski	Chris Dorman
Fundraising/Capital Campaigns	New Specialist or contracted		
Genealogy	Emily Schroeder		
Grant Writing	Lisa Shaw	Jared Leadbetter	Janet McKenney or Deb Clark
Human Resources	Maine Association of Non-Profits (MANP)		
Interlibrary Loan	Amy Cummings		Janet McKenney
Job Listings	David Warren	Elaine Bissonette	
Let's Talk About It!	Humanities Council)		David Warren
Library Development Office	Cheryl Ramsay		David Warren
Library Directories	Elaine Bissonette		
Library Leadership	Stephanie Zurinski	Janet McKenney	Jared Leadbetter or Deb Clark
Library Legal Issues	Janet McKenney	Jamie Ritter	
LSTA	Janet McKenney	Stephanie Zurinski	
Maine InfoNet (Download Library, Minerva, MILS, URSUS, MARVEL)	James Jackson Sanborn	http://www.maineinfonet.org/about/staff/	
Maine Library Commission	Amber Tardiff		Jamie Ritter
Maine Public Library Fund Grants	Deb Clark	Janet McKenney	Jamie Ritter
Marketing/Advocacy	New Specialist or contracted		
Maine State Library Meetings	Cheryl Ramsay		
Maine State Library Public Services	Alison Maxell	Cheryl Ramsay	
MARVEL	Maine InfoNet	http://www.maineinfonet.org/about/staff/	Jared Leadbetter
MILS (Maine InfoNet Library System)	Maine InfoNet	http://www.maineinfonet.org/about/staff/	Deb Clark
Minerva	Maine InfoNet	http://www.maineinfonet.org/about/staff/	Jared Leadbetter
MSLN/Networkmaine	Janet McKenney	Jared Leadbetter	http://www.networkmaine.net/msln/
Municipal Libraries	New Specialist or contracted		Lisa Shaw
Non-Profit Management	MANP		
Partnerships and Collaborations	Deb Clark		Jared Leadbetter or Lisa Shaw
Reading Round-Up	Deb Clark	Elaine Bissonette	
Regional Meeting Coordination	Elaine Bissonette		
Rural and Small Libraries	Lisa Shaw		
School Libraries	Sherry Wyman		
STEM, Makerspace, Robots	Chris Dorman		Jared Leadbetter
Strategic Plans	Deb Clark		Stephanie Zurinski
Summer Reading	To be filled by Early Literacy/Children's		Nicole Rancourt
Talking Books/Large Print	Chris Boynton		
Tandberg and Video Conferencing	Alan Fecteau		Jared Leadbetter
Technology Advice/Assistance	Jared Leadbetter		
Trends in Libraries	Deb Clark	Stephanie Zurinski	
Trustees and Governance	Deb Clark		Stephanie Zurinski or Lisa Shaw
URSUS	Maine InfoNet	http://www.maineinfonet.org/about/staff/	Chris Boynton or Jamie Ritter
Van Delivery	Janet McKenney	Amy Cummings	Amber Tardiff
Young Adult/Youth Services	Chris Dorman		

**Maine's Regional
Library System:
A History**

by

Robert C. Woodward

February, 1999

Printed by Maine State Library, 1999

**Desktop Publishing by
Cheryl Ramsay and Felicia Kennedy**

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.

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-

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 -

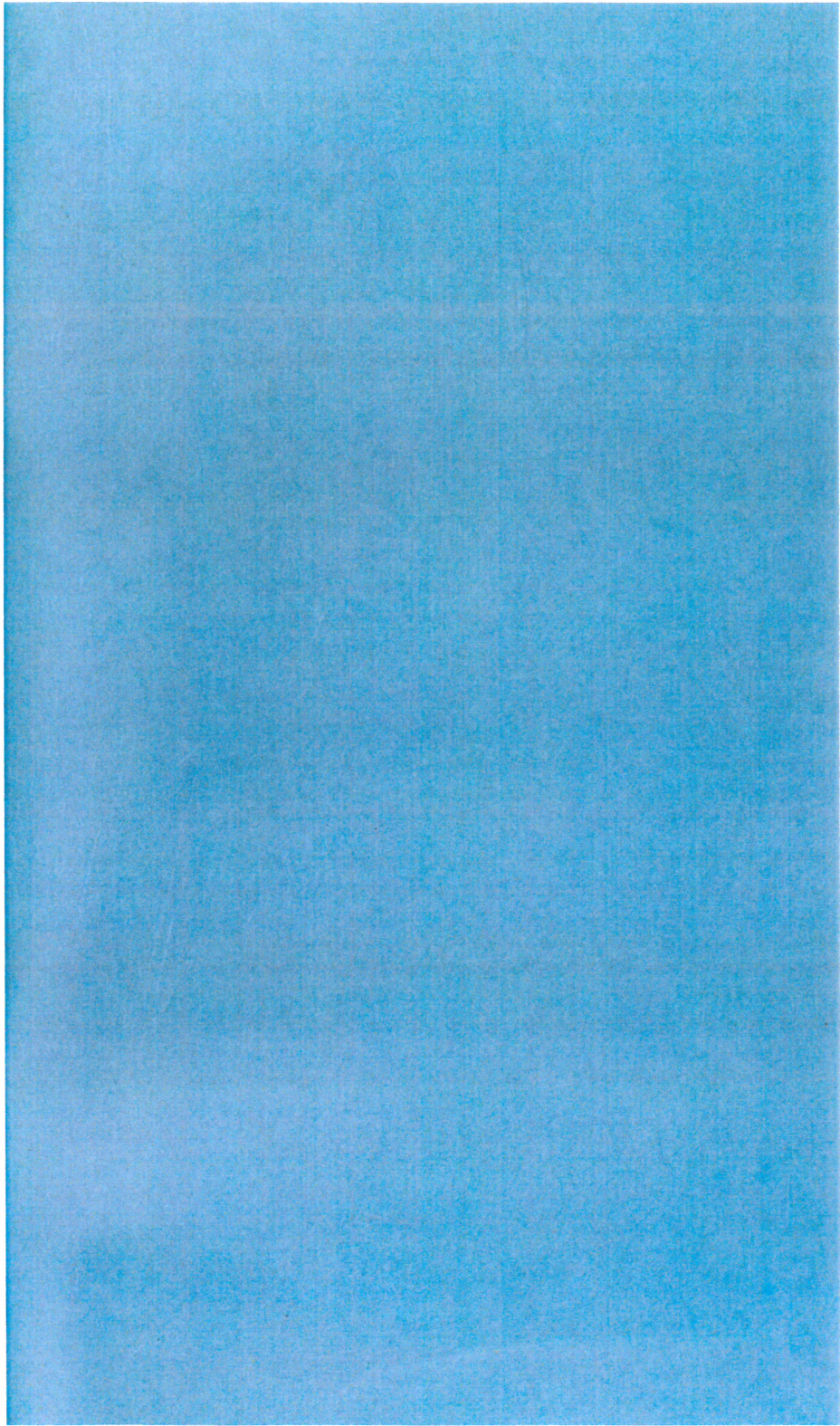
states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. The same correlations show up when we look at interlibrary loan activity within Maine. Libraries with the highest levels of per capita expenditures and circulation are almost always the libraries with the highest levels of interlibrary loan activity. 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

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



Public Library Directory - September 2016

Library Name	Municipality	County	Population of Legal Service Area	Previous Library District	New Region
ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Dexter	PENOBSCOT	8,896	NMLD	6
ABEL J. MORNEAULT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Van Buren	AROOSTOOK	2,397	NMLD	9
ACTION PUBLIC LIBRARY	ACTON	YORK	2,545	SMLD	1
ALBERT CHURCH BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	China Village	KENNEBEC	4,280	CMLD	3
ALBERT F. TOTMAN LIBRARY	Phippsburg	SAGADAHOE	2,223	CMLD	3
ALBION PUBLIC LIBRARY	Albion	KENNEBEC	2,049	CMLD	3
ALICE L. PENDLETON LIBRARY	Islesboro	WALDO	568	NMLD	6
ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Andover	OXFORD	807	CMLD	2
ANNA FIELD FERNALD LIBRARY	Detroit	SOMERSET	824	CMLD	5
ASHLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Ashland	AROOSTOOK	2,060	NMLD	9
ATKINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Corinth	PENOBSCOT	2,850	NMLD	6
AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Auburn	ANDROSCOGGIN	25,502	CMLD	3
BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY	Bangor	PENOBSCOT	32,568	NMLD	6
BASS HARBOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Bernard	HANCOCK	1,593	NMLD	7
BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Gorham	CUMBERLAND	17,024	SMLD	1
BELFAST FREE LIBRARY	Belfast	WALDO	9,598	NMLD	6
BELGRADE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Belgrade	KENNEBEC	3,154	CMLD	3
BERRY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Buxton	YORK	8,143	SMLD	1
BERWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Berwick	YORK	7,492	SMLD	1
BETHEL LIBRARY ASSN.	Bethel	OXFORD	4,009	CMLD	2
BINGHAM UNION LIBRARY	Bingham	SOMERSET	1,554	CMLD	5
BLUE HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Blue Hill	HANCOCK	6,588	NMLD	7
BOLSTERS MILLS VILLAGE LIBRARY	Harrison	CUMBERLAND	4,552	SMLD	1
BONNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Cornish	YORK	1,418	SMLD	1
BOOTHBAY HARBOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Boothbay Harbor	LINCOLN	6,507	CMLD	4
BOWDOINHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Bowdoinham	SAGADAHOE	2,869	CMLD	3
BREMEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Bremen	LINCOLN	798	CMLD	4
BREWER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Brewer	PENOBSCOT	9,317	NMLD	6
BRIDGE ACADEMY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Dresden	LINCOLN	1,650	CMLD	4
BRIDGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Bridgton	CUMBERLAND	5,344	SMLD	1
BRISTOL AREA LIBRARY	New Harbor	LINCOLN	2,728	CMLD	4
BROOKSVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Brooksville	HANCOCK	928	NMLD	7
BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - BALDWIN	East Baldwin	CUMBERLAND	1,579	SMLD	1
BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CLINTON	Clinton	KENNEBEC	3,375	CMLD	3
BROWNFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Brownfield	OXFORD	1,607	SMLD	2
BROWNVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Brownville	PISCATAQUIS	1,207	NMLD	5

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BUCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Bucksport	HANCOCK	7,695	NMLD	7
CALAIS FREE LIBRARY	Calais	WASHINGTON	3,004	NMLD	8
CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Camden	KNOX	4,838	NMLD	4
CANAAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Canaan	SOMERSET	2,237	CMLD	5
CAPE PORPOISE LIBRARY	Kennebunkport	YORK	3,551	SMLD	1
CARIBOU PUBLIC LIBRARY	Caribou	AROOSTOOK	7,871	NMLD	9
CARRABASSETT VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Carrabassett	FRANKLIN	776	CMLD	2
CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Searsport	WALDO	2,627	NMLD	6
CARY LIBRARY-HOULTON	Houlton	AROOSTOOK	13,555	NMLD	9
CARY MEMORIAL LIBRARY-WAYNE	Wayne	KENNEBEC	1,166	CMLD	3
CASCO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Casco	CUMBERLAND	5,604	SMLD	1
CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Kenduskeag	PENOBSCOT	1,337	NMLD	6
CHARLES M. BAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Winthrop	KENNEBEC	5,987	CMLD	3
CHARLESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Charleston	PENOBSCOT	1,390	NMLD	6
CHARLOTTE HOBBS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Lovell	OXFORD	2,173	SMLD	2
CHASE EMERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Deer Isle	HANCOCK	1,965	NMLD	7
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND LIBRARY	Chebeague Island	CUMBERLAND	346	SMLD	1
CHERRYFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Cherryfield	WASHINGTON	1,230	NMLD	8
CLIFF ISLAND LIBRARY	Cliff Island	CUMBERLAND	71	SMLD	1
COLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Enfield	PENOBSCOT	1,582	NMLD	6
COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Lyman	YORK	6,405	SMLD	1
COOLIDGE LIBRARY	Solon	SOMERSET	1,047	CMLD	5
CUMSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Monmouth	KENNEBEC	4,071	CMLD	3
CUNDY'S HARBOR LIBRARY	Harpowell	CUMBERLAND	4,836	SMLD	1
CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Brunswick	CUMBERLAND	25,277	SMLD	1
CUSHING PUBLIC LIBRARY	Cushing	KNOX	1,511	NMLD	4
D.A. HURD LIBRARY	North Berwick	YORK	4,650	SMLD	1
DANFORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY	Danforth	WASHINGTON	981	NMLD	8
DAVIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Limington	YORK	3,759	SMLD	1
DENMARK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Denmark	OXFORD	1,144	SMLD	2
DORCAS LIBRARY	Prospect Harbor	HANCOCK	1,740	NMLD	7
DOROTHY W. QUIMBY LIBRARY	Unity	WALDO	5,021	NMLD	6
DR. SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Mount Vernon	KENNEBEC	2,216	CMLD	3
DYER LIBRARY	Saco	YORK	19,041	SMLD	1
EAST BLUE HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY	East Blue Hill	HANCOCK	2,676	NMLD	7
EAST MILLINOCKET PUBLIC LIBRARY	East Millinocket	PENOBSCOT	1,688	NMLD	6
EDYTHE DYER COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Hampden	PENOBSCOT	7,392	NMLD	6
ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY	Ellsworth	HANCOCK	24,277	NMLD	7
FALMOUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Falmouth	CUMBERLAND	11,734	SMLD	1

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Farmington	FRANKLIN	7,610	CMLD	2
FAYE O'LEARY HAFFORD LIBRARY	Allagash	AROOSTOOK	228	NMLD	9
FORT FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fort Fairfield	AROOSTOOK	3,402	NMLD	9
FORT KENT PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fort Kent	AROOSTOOK	4,012	NMLD	9
FREELAND HOLMES LIBRARY	Oxford	OXFORD	4,053	CMLD	2
FREEPORT COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Freeport	CUMBERLAND	8,224	SMLD	1
FRENCHBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Frenchboro	HANCOCK	61	NMLD	7
FRENCHMANS BAY LIBRARY	Sullivan	HANCOCK	3,911	NMLD	7
FRIEND MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Brooklin	HANCOCK	819	NMLD	7
FRIENDSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Friendship	KNOX	1,141	NMLD	4
FRYEBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fryeburg	OXFORD	3,398	SMLD	2
GALLISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Harrington	WASHINGTON	970	NMLD	8
GARDINER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Gardiner	KENNEBEC	17,042	CMLD	3
GIBBS LIBRARY	Washington	KNOX	1,522	NMLD	4
GOODALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Sanford	YORK	20,906	SMLD	1
GRAY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Gray	CUMBERLAND	7,962	SMLD	1
GREAT CRANBERRY LIBRARY	Cranberry Isles	HANCOCK	140	NMLD	7
GUILFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Guilford	PISCATAQUIS	1,494	NMLD	5
HAMLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Paris	OXFORD	5,113	CMLD	2
HARRISON VILLAGE LIBRARY	Harrison	CUMBERLAND	2,793	SMLD	1
HARTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Hartland	SOMERSET	3,698	CMLD	5
HARVEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Parkman	PISCATAQUIS	828	NMLD	5
HENRY D. MOORE LIBRARY	Steuben	WASHINGTON	1,098	NMLD	8
HOLLIS CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Hollis	YORK	6,425	SMLD	1
HOPE LIBRARY	Hope	KNOX	1,659	NMLD	4
HUBBARD FREE LIBRARY	Hallowell	KENNEBEC	5,035	CMLD	3
ISAAC F. UMBERHINE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Richmond	SAGadahoc	3,383	CMLD	3
ISLESFORD LIBRARY	Islesford	HANCOCK	140	NMLD	7
IVAN O. DAVIS-LIBERTY LIBRARY	Liberty	WALDO	1,967	NMLD	6
JACKMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Jackman	SOMERSET	1,098	CMLD	5
JACKSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Tenants Harbor	KNOX	2,584	NMLD	4
JAY-NILES MEMORIAL LIBRARY	North Jay	FRANKLIN	4,785	CMLD	2
JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Jefferson	LINCOLN	2,397	CMLD	4
JESUP MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Bar Harbor	HANCOCK	5,308	NMLD	7
JIM DITZLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	New Sharon	FRANKLIN	1,402	CMLD	2
JOHN B. CURTIS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Bradford	PENOBSCOT	1,268	NMLD	6
JULIA ADAMS MORSE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Greene	ANDROSCOGGIN	4,358	CMLD	3
KATAHDIN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Island Falls	AROOSTOOK	1,276	NMLD	9
KENNEBUNK FREE LIBRARY	Kennebunk	YORK	15,287	SMLD	1

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KEZAR FALLS CIRCULATING LIBRARY	Parsonsfeld	YORK	3,401	SMLD	1
LAURA E. RICHARDS LIBRARY	Georgetown	SAGADAHOC	1,036	CMLD	3
LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fairfield	SOMERSET	6,567	CMLD	5
LEWIS DANA HILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Center Lovell	OXFORD	1,369	SMLD	2
LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Lewiston	ANDROSCOGGIN	36,299	CMLD	3
LIBBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Old Orchard Beach	YORK	8,756	SMLD	1
LIMERICK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Limerick	YORK	2,919	SMLD	1
LINCOLN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Lincoln	PENOBSCOT	5,064	NMLD	6
LINCOLN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - DENNYVILLE	Dennysville	WASHINGTON	1,511	NMLD	8
LINCOLNVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Lincolnville	WALDO	2,203	NMLD	6
LISBON LIBRARY DEPT	Lisbon Falls	ANDROSCOGGIN	8,883	CMLD	3
LITHGOW PUBLIC LIBRARY	Augusta	KENNEBEC	18,705	CMLD	3
LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Livermore	ANDROSCOGGIN	2,102	CMLD	3
LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Long Island	CUMBERLAND	237	SMLD	1
LONG LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY	St. Agatha	AROOSTOOK	1,777	NMLD	9
LOUIS T. GRAVES MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Kennebunkport	YORK	3,551	SMLD	1
LOUISE CLEMENTS LIBRARY	Cutler	WASHINGTON	495	NMLD	8
LUBEC MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Lubec	WASHINGTON	1,304	NMLD	8
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Dixfield	OXFORD	5,531	CMLD	2
MADAWASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY	Madawaska	AROOSTOOK	3,892	NMLD	9
MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Madison	SOMERSET	9,738	CMLD	5
MARK AND EMILY TURNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Presque Isle	AROOSTOOK	9,317	NMLD	9
MARTHA SAWYER COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Lebanon	YORK	6,119	SMLD	1
MAYHEW LIBRARY ASSN	Addison	WASHINGTON	1,236	NMLD	8
MCARTHUR PUBLIC LIBRARY	Biddeford	YORK	21,337	SMLD	1
MECHANIC FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Mechanic Falls	ANDROSCOGGIN	3,008	CMLD	3
MERRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Yarmouth	CUMBERLAND	8,509	SMLD	1
MEXICO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Mexico	OXFORD	2,610	CMLD	2
MILBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Milbridge	WASHINGTON	1,305	NMLD	8
MILDRED STEVENS WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Appleton	KNOX	1,330	NMLD	4
MILLINOCKET MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Millinocket	PENOBSCOT	4,401	NMLD	6
MILO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Milo	PISCATAQUIS	2,273	NMLD	5
MONHEGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Monhegan	LINCOLN	68	CMLD	4
MONROE COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Monroe	WALDO	899	NMLD	6
MONSON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Monson	PISCATAQUIS	666	NMLD	5
NAPLES PUBLIC LIBRARY	Naples	CUMBERLAND	3,952	SMLD	1
NEW GLOUCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	New Gloucester	CUMBERLAND	5,644	SMLD	1
NEW PORTLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY	New Portland	SOMERSET	708	CMLD	5
NEW VINEYARD PUBLIC LIBRARY	New Vineyard	FRANKLIN	775	CMLD	2

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NEWBURGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Newburgh	PENOBSCOT	1,531	NMLD	6
NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY	Newport	PENOBSCOT	3,248	NMLD	6
NORRIDGEWOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Norridgewock	SOMERSET	3,316	CMLD	5
NORTH GORHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Gorham	CUMBERLAND	17,024	SMLD	1
NORTH HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	North Haven	KNOX	350	NMLD	4
NORTHEAST HARBOR LIBRARY	Northeast Harbor	HANCOCK	2,068	NMLD	7
NORWAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Norway	OXFORD	4,942	CMLD	2
OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Oakland	KENNEBEC	6,216	CMLD	3
OCEAN PARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Ocean Park	YORK	8,756	SMLD	1
OGUNQUIT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Ogunquit	YORK	912	SMLD	1
OLD TOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Old Town	PENOBSCOT	10,730	NMLD	6
ORONO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Orono	PENOBSCOT	10,670	NMLD	6
ORRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Orrington	PENOBSCOT	3,707	NMLD	6
ORRS ISLAND LIBRARY	Orrs Island	CUMBERLAND	4,836	SMLD	1
OWLS HEAD VILLAGE LIBRARY	Owls Head	KNOX	1,581	NMLD	4
PALERMO COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Palermo	WALDO	1,542	NMLD	6
PARIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	South Paris	OXFORD	5,113	CMLD	2
PARSONS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Alfred	YORK	3,076	SMLD	1
PATTEN FREE LIBRARY	Bath	SAGadahoc	14,744	CMLD	3
PEABODY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Jonesport	WASHINGTON	1,827	NMLD	8
PEAVEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Eastport	WASHINGTON	2,213	NMLD	8
PEMBROKE LIBRARY	Pembroke	WASHINGTON	799	NMLD	8
PHILLIPS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Phillips	FRANKLIN	1,471	CMLD	2
PITTSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Pittsfield	SOMERSET	4,092	CMLD	5
PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Machias	WASHINGTON	2,275	NMLD	8
PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Portland	CUMBERLAND	66,666	SMLD	1
PRINCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Cumberland	CUMBERLAND	11,254	SMLD	1
PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Princeton	WASHINGTON	796	NMLD	8
RANGELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rangeley	FRANKLIN	1,774	CMLD	2
RAYMOND VILLAGE LIBRARY	Raymond	CUMBERLAND	4,501	SMLD	1
READFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Readfield	KENNEBEC	2,548	CMLD	3
REVERE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Isle Au Haut	KNOX	72	NMLD	4
RICE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Kittery	YORK	9,649	SMLD	1
RICHVILLE LIBRARY	Standish	CUMBERLAND	10,020	SMLD	1
RICKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Poland	ANDROSCOGGIN	5,517	CMLD	3
ROBERT A. FROST MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Limestone	AROOSTOOK	2,529	NMLD	9
ROCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rockland	KNOX	7,219	NMLD	4
ROCKPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rockport	KNOX	3,360	NMLD	4
RUMFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rumford	OXFORD	6,452	CMLD	2

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RUTHERFORD LIBRARY	South Bristol	LINCOLN	890	CMLD	4
SALMON FALLS LIBRARY	Hollis	YORK	4,407	SMLD	1
SANGERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Sangerville	PISCATAQUIS	1,289	NMLD	5
SCARBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY	Scarborough	CUMBERLAND	19,524	SMLD	1
SEARSMONT TOWN LIBRARY	Searsmont	WALDO	1,409	NMLD	6
SEDGWICK LIBRARY ASSN	SEDWICK	HANCOCK	1,193	NMLD	7
SHAPLEIGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Shapleigh	YORK	2,688	SMLD	1
SHAW PUBLIC LIBRARY - GREENVILLE	Greenville	PISCATAQUIS	1,949	NMLD	5
SHAW PUBLIC LIBRARY - MERCER	Mercer	SOMERSET	658	CMLD	5
SHERMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Sherman	AROOSTOOK	1,203	NMLD	9
SIMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Carmel	PENOBSCOT	2,796	NMLD	6
SKIDOMPHA PUBLIC LIBRARY	Damariscotta	LINCOLN	5,573	CMLD	4
SKOWHEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Skowhegan	SOMERSET	8,458	CMLD	5
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Hiram	OXFORD	1,610	SMLD	2
SOMESVILLE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Mount Desert	HANCOCK	2,068	NMLD	7
SOUTH BERWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY	South Berwick	YORK	7,316	SMLD	1
SOUTH CHINA PUBLIC LIBRARY	South China	KENNEBEC	4,280	CMLD	3
SOUTH PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	South Portland	CUMBERLAND	25,424	SMLD	1
SOUTH THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	South Thomaston	KNOX	1,597	NMLD	4
SOUTHPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Southport	LINCOLN	594	CMLD	4
SOUTHWEST HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY	Southwest Harbor	HANCOCK	1,771	NMLD	7
SPAULDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Sebago	CUMBERLAND	1,763	SMLD	1
SPRINGVALE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Sanford	YORK	20,906	SMLD	1
STEEP FALLS LIBRARY	Steep Falls	CUMBERLAND	10,020	SMLD	1
STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Stetson	PENOBSCOT	1,209	NMLD	6
STEWART FREE LIBRARY	Corinna	PENOBSCOT	2,189	NMLD	6
STEWART PUBLIC LIBRARY	Anson	SOMERSET	3,400	CMLD	5
STOCKTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Stockton Springs	WALDO	1,601	NMLD	6
STONINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Stonington	HANCOCK	1,038	NMLD	7
STRATTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Stratton	FRANKLIN	614	CMLD	2
STRONG PUBLIC LIBRARY	Strong	FRANKLIN	1,196	CMLD	2
STURDIVANT PUBLIC LIBRARY	East Machias	WASHINGTON	1,316	NMLD	8
SWANS ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Swan's Island	HANCOCK	331	NMLD	7
THOMAS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Cape Elizabeth	CUMBERLAND	9,185	SMLD	1
THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Thomaston	KNOX	2,768	NMLD	4
THOMPSON FREE LIBRARY	Dover-Foxcroft	PISCATAQUIS	4,056	NMLD	5
TOPSHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Topsham	SAGadahoc	8,715	CMLD	3
TREAT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Livermore Falls	ANDROSCOGGIN	3,144	CMLD	3
TURNER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Turner	ANDROSCOGGIN	5,756	CMLD	3

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UNDERWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Fayette	KENNEBEC	1,133	CMLD	3
VASSALBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY	East Vassalboro	KENNEBEC	4,306	CMLD	3
VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Patten	PENOBSCOT	1,201	NMLD	6
VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Vinalhaven	KNOX	1,144	NMLD	4
VOSE LIBRARY	Union	KNOX	2,233	NMLD	4
WALDO PEIRCE READING ROOM	Frankfort	WALDO	1,136	NMLD	6
WALDOBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Waldoboro	LINCOLN	5,015	CMLD	4
WALKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Westbrook	CUMBERLAND	17,886	SMLD	1
WALTER T. A. HANSEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Mars Hill	AROOSTOOK	2,147	NMLD	9
WARREN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Warren	KNOX	4,687	NMLD	4
WASHBURN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Washburn	AROOSTOOK	2,261	NMLD	9
WATERBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Waterboro	YORK	7,771	SMLD	1
WATERFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Waterford	OXFORD	1,547	CMLD	2
WATERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Waterville	KENNEBEC	16,182	CMLD	3
WEBSTER FREE LIBRARY	Kingfield	FRANKLIN	970	CMLD	2
WELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Weld	FRANKLIN	413	CMLD	2
WELLS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wells	YORK	10,009	SMLD	1
WEST BUXTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Buxton	YORK	8,143	SMLD	1
WEST PARIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	West Paris	OXFORD	1,811	CMLD	2
WHITMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Bryant Pond	OXFORD	1,266	CMLD	2
WHITNEYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Whitneyville	WASHINGTON	3,014	NMLD	8
WILLIAM FOGG PUBLIC LIBRARY	Eliot	YORK	6,298	SMLD	1
WILTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wilton	FRANKLIN	3,999	CMLD	2
WINDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY	Windham	CUMBERLAND	17,589	SMLD	1
WINSLOW PUBLIC LIBRARY	Winslow	KENNEBEC	7,637	CMLD	3
WINTER HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY	Winter Harbor	HANCOCK	516	NMLD	7
WINTERPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Winterport	WALDO	3,793	NMLD	6
WISCASSET PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wiscasset	LINCOLN	6,344	CMLD	4
WITHERLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Castine	HANCOCK	1,358	NMLD	7
WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	Baileyville	WASHINGTON	1,467	NMLD	8
YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY	York	YORK	12,803	SMLD	1
ZADOC LONG FREE LIBRARY	Buckfield	OXFORD	4,127	CMLD	2

Maine Revised Statutes

Title 27, Chapter 4: REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

[27 §110. Definitions \(title27sec110.html\)](#)

[27 §111. Regional library development \(title27sec111.html\)](#)

[27 §112. – functions \(title27sec112.html\)](#)

[27 §113. Library districts \(title27sec113.html\)](#)

[27 §114. District council \(title27sec114.html\)](#)

[27 §115. Area reference and resource centers \(title27sec115.html\)](#)

[27 §116. Research centers \(title27sec116.html\)](#)

[27 §117. District consultants \(title27sec117.html\)](#)

[27 §118. School libraries and media center \(title27sec118.html\)](#)

[27 §119. Distribution of appropriations \(title27sec119.html\)](#)

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Maine Revised Statutes

Title 27: LIBRARIES, HISTORY, CULTURE AND ART

Chapter 4: REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

§110. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §24 (AMD).]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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 purposes 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 and of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district that by contract become part of the library district.

[RR 1991, c. 2, §101 (COR) .]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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

[1977, c. 125, §1 (AMD) .]

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

[1981, c. 464, §29 (RPR) .]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

7. Library district. "Library district" means a defined geographic area consisting of local libraries joined cooperatively to 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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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.

[1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW) .]

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.

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §25 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §1 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §29 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §§B24,25 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §101 (COR).

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§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 consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The library commission must be broadly representative of the State's libraries and 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 must be a 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.

[1993, c. 349, §57 (AMD) .]

2. Rules. The Maine Library Commission may adopt rules to carry out its responsibilities under this Title. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[2009, c. 2, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1983, c. 245, (AMD). 1983, c. 812, §168 (AMD). 1989, c. 503, §B114 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §B26 (AMD). 1993, c. 349, §57 (AMD). 2009, c. 2, §1 (AMD).

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§112. -- functions

The library commission shall: [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

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. The commission shall fix compensation for the State Librarian within salary range 88;

[1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §31 (AMD); 1991, c. 528, Pt. RRR, (AFF); 1991, c. 591, Pt. E, §31 (AMD) .]

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;

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §27 (AMD) .]

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; and

[RR 1991, c. 2, §102 (COR) .]

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.

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §28 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 700, §§B27,28 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §102 (COR). 1991, c. 528, §E31 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §E31 (AMD).

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§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, Pt. B, §29 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B29 (RPR).

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§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, Pt. B, §29 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B29 (RPR).

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§114. District council

Each library district shall have an advisory council which shall be known as the district council. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

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.

[1977, c. 125, §3 (RPR) .]

2. Duties. The district council shall:

A. Serve as an advisory body for the districts. [1981, c. 464, §30 (RPR).]

B. Develop and evaluate a program of services in the district which will encourage cooperative activity among all types of libraries and media centers; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

C. Provide liaison among the municipalities in the district; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

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; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

E. Assist in the development of a comprehensive district plan; and [1977, c. 125, §4 (AMD).]

F. Advise on the selection of an area reference and resource center and a research center for the district. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

[1981, c. 464, §30 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §§3,4 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §30 (AMD).

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§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. [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §30 (AMD).]

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

- A. Provide a common borrower's card for member libraries; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- B. Participate with the district consultant in planning and conducting workshops on community-library planning; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- C. Provide office space and support services to the extent able to the district consultant; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- D. Join with the district council in assigning priorities to implement the district plan; and [1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §31 (AMD).]
- E. Such other cooperative activities and services as member libraries may need or require. [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]

[1989, c. 700, Pt. B, §31 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B30,31 (AMD).

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§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. [2013, c. 82, §10 (AMD).]

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; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- B. Study the needs of the district and make recommendations to the district council; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- C. Coordinate services among libraries of all types; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- D. Provide liaison between the district, other districts and the Maine State Library; [1981, c. 464, §32 (AMD).]
- E. Encourage local initiative and commitment to regional cooperative library service; [1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW).]
- F. Work with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service; and [1981, c. 464, §33 (RPR).]
- G. Help evolve a district plan of service. [1977, c. 125, §6 (RPR).]

[1981, c. 464, §§31-33 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1977, c. 125, §§5,6 (AMD). 1981, c. 464, §§31-33 (AMD). 2013, c. 82, §10 (AMD).

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§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, Pt. B, §32 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1973, c. 626, §6 (NEW). 1989, c. 700, §B32 (AMD).

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§119. Distribution of appropriations

The State Librarian is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems. [2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1977, c. 125, §7 (NEW). 1977, c. 555, §1 (NEW). 1977, c. 564, §100 (RPR).
1977, c. 690, §15 (RPR). 1989, c. 700, §B33 (AMD). 2013, c. 82, §11 (AMD).

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