

2018

Maine State Library Annual Report 2018

Maine State Library

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STATE OF MAINE
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MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR README PROGRAM (SEE P. 7) CULMINATED IN THIS LIVE BROADCAST OF "MAINE CALLING" AT THE MAINE STATE LIBRARY.

**ESTABLISHED IN 1837,
THE MAINE STATE LIBRARY
IS NOW ENTERING ITS
182ND YEAR OF HELPING PEOPLE,
MAKING LIBRARIES STRONGER,
AND TRANSFORMING
INFORMATION INTO KNOWLEDGE.**

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MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Dear fellow Maine resident,

With just over 40 dedicated staff, the Maine State Library serves Maine's residents by delivering on our commitment to:

- build and maintain superior collections that reflect the rich history of our state and the world around us;
- create a destination for the public to access a wide array of library services; and
- support all Maine libraries as they work to deliver essential services to their communities.

While our funding sources have generally remained flat over the last decade, we have always strived to ensure that our programs are aligned with services that bring the greatest benefits to all Maine residents. From broadening access to Maine's Digital Maine Library, to mailing materials to residents in our most remote communities, the Maine State Library is constantly working to make sure that individuals who need our services have access to them.

Our success is shared with key organizational partners that help to bring library

**"WE'RE FOCUSED ON
PRESERVING THE
IRREPLACEABLE
RECORDS OF MAINE'S
PAST AND PRESENT TO
HELP US UNDERSTAND
WHO WE ARE AND
WHERE WE'RE GOING."**

————— JAMES RITTER

TOP FIVE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES (2017/18)

\$400,000 **Digital Maine Library Resources (DML)** make thousands of online educational and recreational resources available to all Maine's citizens.

\$380,000 **Area Reference and Resource Services (ARRCS)** Long and strong partnerships with the Portland and Bangor Public Libraries enable MSL to expand services south and north.

\$215,000 **Maine InfoNet Statewide Systems Resource** helps provide the automated library systems and online catalog for hundreds of libraries throughout the state to access.

\$140,000 **Interlibrary Loan Van Delivery** allows all participating Public Libraries in Maine to access materials from libraries across the state, with at least one delivery day per week.

\$100,000 **Historical Preservation Initiatives and Access** Through both State General Funds and private grant support, the Maine State Library continues to preserve important collections through archival preservation methodologies and digitization initiatives, which broaden access to unique collections.

services to residents in all corners of our state:

- The Portland, Bangor, and Lewiston Public Libraries have helped us to make resources available to individuals and libraries in communities where our reach is limited.
- A commitment to Maine InfoNet, also supported by the Fogler Library at the University of Maine, helps ensure that we're building the systems needed to connect more libraries throughout the state with each other.

These partnerships have made us stronger, and underscore the highly collaborative nature of our work.

As we reflect on our current and past work, we're extremely excited about the future of libraries—especially with Maine's 200th year of statehood coming in 2020. We're preparing to lead all Maine libraries in celebrating this milestone, not only in a retrospective sense, but also prospectively: we are already actively identifying how we should invest in building the infrastructure of Maine's libraries to make the greatest impact on the communities we serve in the years to come.

Our focus for the Bicentennial and beyond will be on:

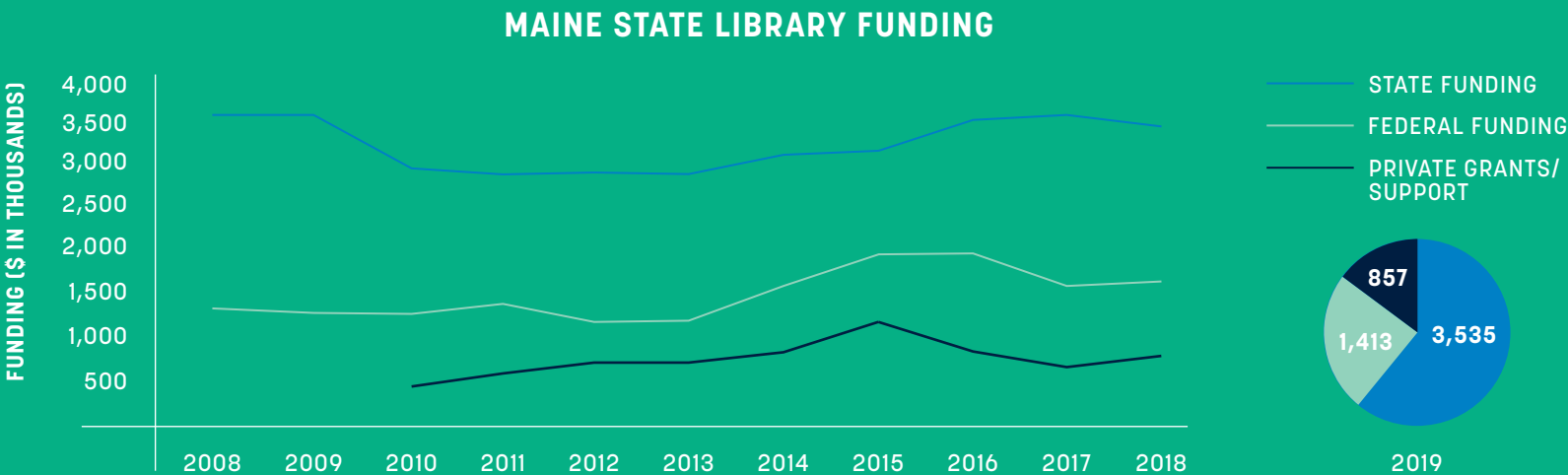
- expanded access and collaboration among all Maine libraries;
- ensuring that Maine's youngest residents and their families have the tools to build strong and lasting literacy skills; and
- preserving the materials that best tell the story of who we are and what makes Maine special.

Over the coming year of Bicentennial preparation, we look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can serve you better, and look forward to seeing you often in our building, at your local library, and online!

Sincerely,

James Ritter

Jamie Ritter, Maine State Librarian





ADAM FISHER, DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Maine State Library has made a major effort in the past few years to digitize the vast resources it is responsible for conserving and making accessible to the public:

- Thanks to a concerted outreach effort to state agencies, and some innovative digitization projects, the Maine State Library has identified and filled gaps in its collection of publications and reports created by agencies of state government.
- Since 2014, this portion of the Library's holdings has grown by close to 20%. Several projects are on the horizon that will lead to further increases in the collection in the year ahead.
- More than 50,000 items were added to the Digital Maine Repository in 2018, making it the largest portal of its kind in Maine. (See Focus on Stats, p. 5.)
- People and institutions from nearly 50 Maine towns and cities have utilized our digitization resource to make their at-risk historical collections available online. This helps make important source materials available to the public and ensures that one-of-a-kind materials are preserved.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT + DIGITAL INITIATIVES

is responsible for the acquisition and care of over 600,000 books, serial volumes, government documents, and other special collections belonging to the Maine State Library. The division is also responsible for digitizing collection materials and providing online access to them.

SHARING THE STORIES OF MAINE PEOPLE + PLACES

The Maine State Library's collection is unique in its strong focus on Maine history, genealogy, and works by Maine authors. A significant share of these collections circulates to patrons of libraries throughout the state via van delivery.

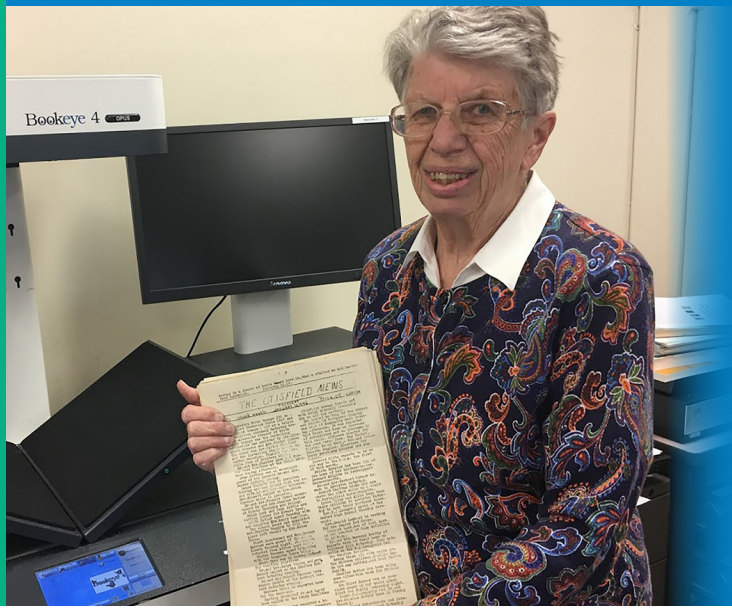
The Maine State Library is also the home to extensive collections of municipal, county and state government documents, providing the public with permanent access to information about how public policy took shape and evolved throughout the state's history.

DIGITIZATION FOR ACCESS + PRESERVATION

Starting in 2014, the library began using state-of-the-art imaging technology to digitize materials and make collections available online. The project is providing unparalleled access to important information sources pertaining to Maine history and government through a new information portal, the Digital Maine Repository (DigitalMaine.com). The online collection includes images, maps, books, records and historical newspapers from Maine's past. As the online collection has grown, so has traffic: in 2018, content was downloaded over 204,000 times.



BREWER HISTORICAL SOCIETY USED OUR EQUIPMENT TO DIGITIZE ITEMS FOR THEIR COLLECTION, INCLUDING THIS PHOTO OF A BOY SCOUT TROOP OUTING FROM CIRCA 1920.



In the Words of Our Stakeholders

“Thanks to the Maine State Library, we digitized and put on-line the entire run of the historic Otisfield News, which editor Ethel Hirst printed between 1945 and 1949.

That period of the town’s history is now closer both to those who lived through it and to those learning about it for the first time.”

—Jean Hankins, Otisfield Historical Society

CHRONICLING OF AMERICA NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION

Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, we have digitized 100,000 pages of historic newspapers from all over Maine, ranging from the mid-1800s through 1929, including the *Oxford Democrat*, *Republican Journal*, *Portland Daily News*, and *Bay Breeze*.

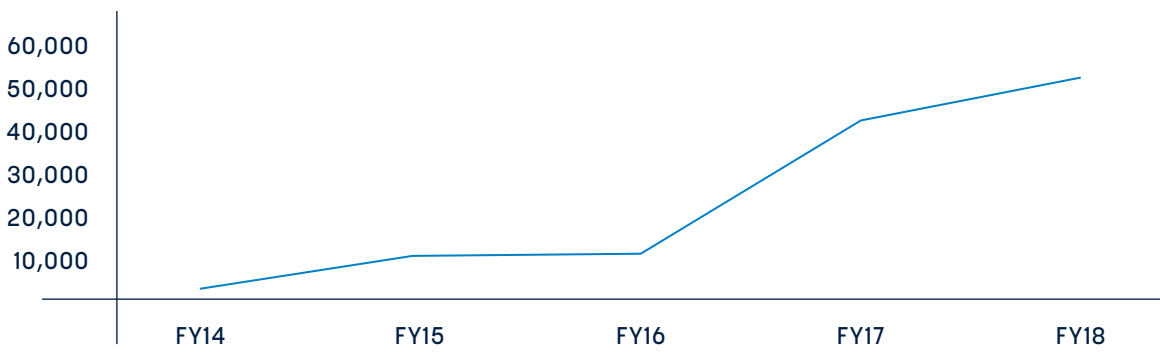
In 2018, we were awarded a second grant to digitize another 100,000 pages of newspapers, which will include the *Ellsworth American*, *Kennebec Journal*, *Portland Gazette*, and numerous small newspapers from Bath.



UNIQUE ITEMS ADDED BY YEAR TO THE MAINE STATE LIBRARY’S DIGITAL REPOSITORY

FOCUS ON STATS

Our Digital Repository has grown exponentially since 2014, and now allows people to access nearly 120,000 unique and rare items from around in the world.





PUBLIC AND OUTREACH SERVICES, RESEARCH + INNOVATION

oversees the one-to-one services the Maine State Library provides Maine residents, including direct lending of library materials, reference services, outreach—especially to the underserved—and innovation. The Department models best service practices, and embraces a philosophy that people are central to the Library's mission to inspire and cultivate learning.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Serving the Underserved

- More than **6,500** items were lent to Maine residents in our most rural communities through the Books By Mail Program.

Serving the Visually Impaired and Print Disabled

- Maine residents with visual and print impairments received over **103,800** items through our Talking Books program

Serving Maine Citizens

- More than **75,000** people visit the library annually.
- We offer public computers that are used more than **17,500** times annually, with each use averaging more than **50** minutes.
- Programming attendance has often exceeded **100+** people per event, through collaborative efforts focused on Maine history, genealogy, and literary works by Maine authors.

Assisting with Research

- We answered over **59,000** reference and research questions in partnership with Portland and Bangor Public Libraries.

Advancing Innovation

- Our new UP Room (for Unlimited Possibilities) is a “maker space” for hands-on STEM exploration, attracting local DIY, robotics, coding and gaming groups.

“WE SEE THE LIBRARY AS NOT ONLY A COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUT ALSO A CREATIVE SPACE TO EXPRESS NEW IDEAS AND CONNECT PEOPLE TO CREATIVE WORK. THIS VIEW BECOMES LESS ABOUT WHAT WE ‘HAVE’ AND MORE ABOUT WHAT WE ‘DO’ WITH OUR RESOURCES.”

—ALISON MAXELL, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC OUTREACH SERVICES (PICTURED TOP LEFT)

REACHING OUT

The Maine State Library's Books by Mail program allows us to serve residents in some of the most remote areas of the state, while the Talking Books program extends library services to individuals with visual and print impairments. These programs are essential to ensuring that no Maine resident is without library services. As described by one active Books by Mail user, Betsy Hampton of Brookton, Maine, “I love the Books by Mail program and the audiobook program is perfect for my husband. We live in unorganized northern Maine and these programs have been wonderful.”





In the Words of Our Stakeholders

“Pine Tree Council of Maine was completely floored with MSL’s UP Room activity at last year’s camp.”

I attribute most of the program’s success to your team’s efforts. We simply could not have met the program goals without the leadership of Maine State Library staff.”

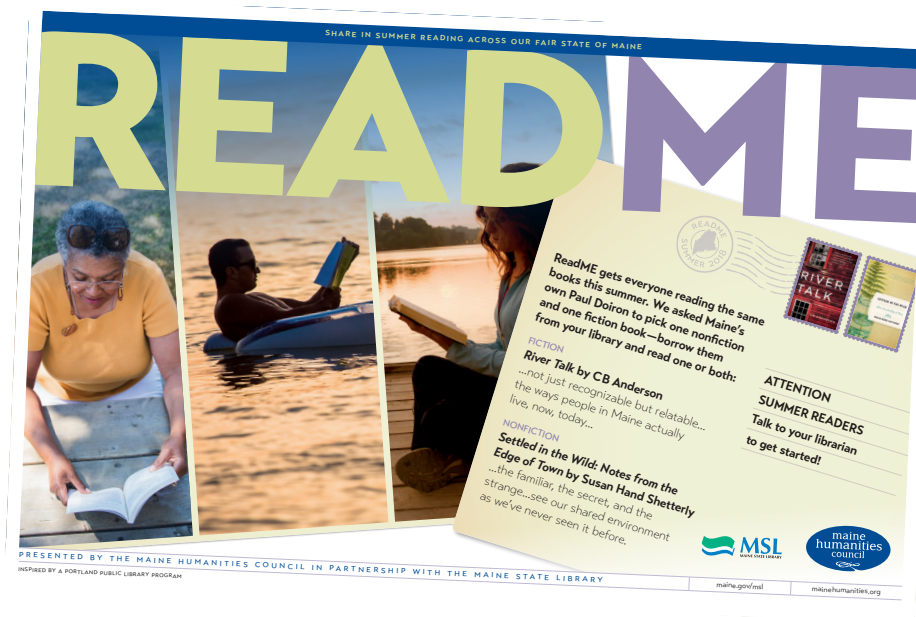
—Jason Goldrup, Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council STEM Lead

PEOPLE + PARTNERSHIPS

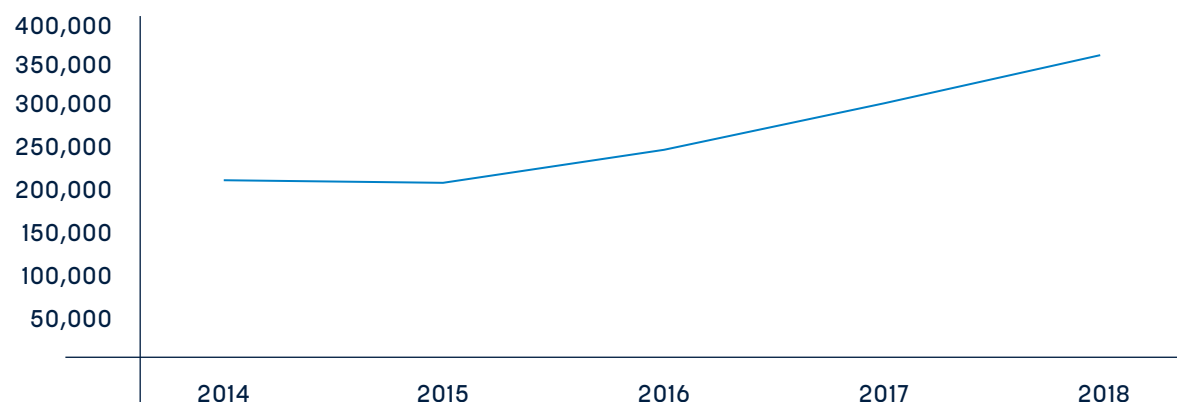
This past year’s ReadME program—an adult summer reading program offered by the Maine Humanities Council and Maine State Library—culminated in a live “Maine Calling” radio broadcast. The ReadME program reached hundreds of Maine citizens and took place in over 80 libraries throughout the state.

FOCUS ON STATS

The vitality of the Maine State Library as a public resource is reflected in the 71% growth in total circulation of MSL materials since 2014.



TOTAL CIRCULATION OF MSL MATERIALS
(INCLUDES PRINT, DIGITAL, TALKING BOOKS, AND BOOKS BY MAIL)





JANET MCKENNEY, DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Development makes libraries stronger. Here are three highlights of what we accomplished in 2018.

- **With the support of our partnership with Maine InfoNet...**
 - **4,686,099** items were circulated throughout Maine libraries;
 - **668,081** books traveled statewide via interlibrary loan;
 - **387,939** audio and e-books were lent via the statewide Download Library; and
 - **103** online resources were made available via the Digital Maine Library (Library.DigitalMaine.org).
- **MSL Specialists/Liaisons attended...**
 - **2,427** in-person and virtual visits/consultations with Maine librarians; and
 - **22** regional and statewide meetings with 1,232 participants.
- **Voluntary Public Library Certification program served...**
 - **41** participants, who took **548** online courses/webinars.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

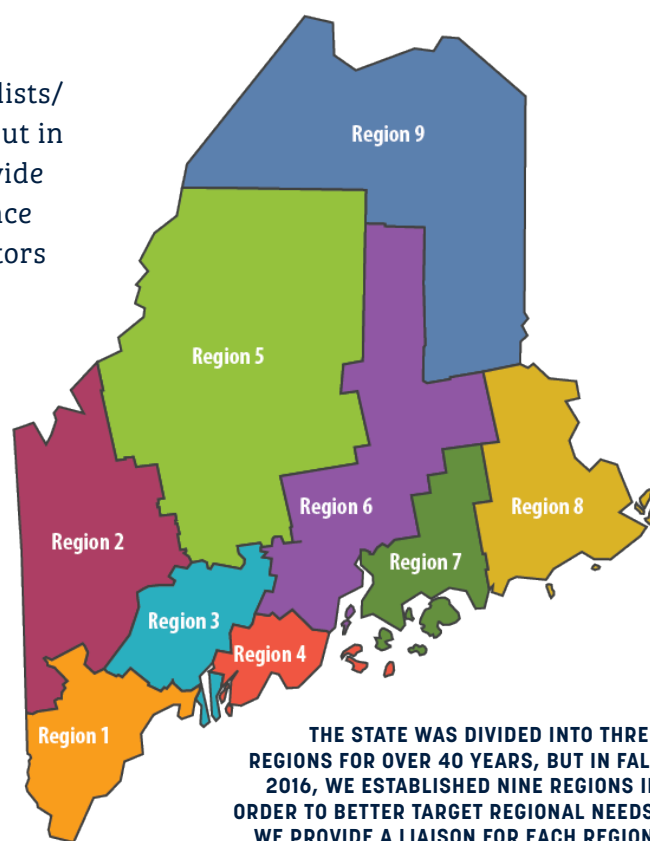
is responsible for the administration of the Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) programs aimed at facilitating statewide resource-sharing and improved library services in Maine. The department also oversees the collection, compilation and dissemination of state and federal data on public library services. Specific activities of the division include:

1. Consulting and Specialist Services, Professional Development, and Continuing Education
2. Infrastructure: Shared Statewide Resources
3. Broadband Access and E-Rate

REACHING OUT

The Library Development Specialists/Liaisons spend significant time out in the field visiting libraries to provide advice, training and services. Since over 70% of Maine Library Directors do not have a Library Science degree, this outreach is vital to Maine communities.

Library Development sponsors regional meetings to bring training to the librarians. Professional Development for Maine librarians is a priority aligned with our mission to “Make Libraries Stronger.”



PEOPLE + PARTNERSHIPS

The Maine State Library partners with a variety of different organizations to provide libraries with services and training:

- Our STEM partnerships include Cornerstones of Science, Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, and the Maine Department of Energy.



In the Words of Our Stakeholders

“Stephanie Schott was fantastic last night presenting to local daycare workers. They all were thrilled to go home with free books to boot!”

Everyone was very impressed that the State Library offers trainings like this.”

—Kara Reiman, Youth Services Librarian, Walker Memorial Library

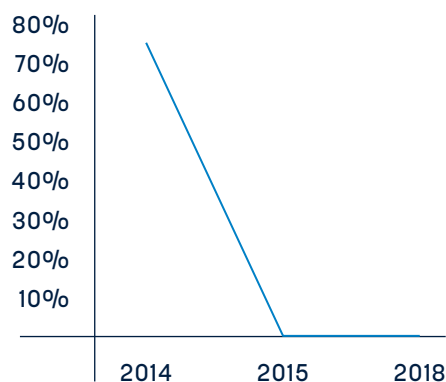
- We have partnered with the Maine Association of Nonprofits to provide services to the 57% of Maine public libraries that are 501(c)3 nonprofits.
- We are working with MaineSpark in developing the role of libraries to increase the post-secondary attainment of Maine’s rural workforce.
- Maine InfoNet is our statewide partner for resource sharing.



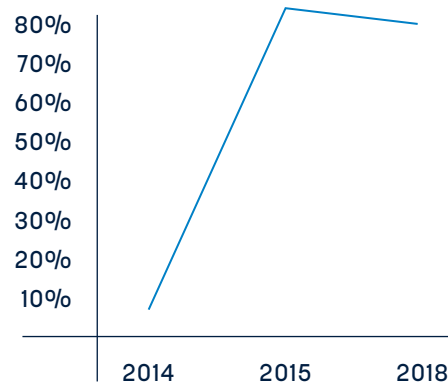
FOCUS ON STATS

The percentage of Maine libraries moving from slower 10 mbps to significantly faster 100 mbps and 1 gbps broadband internet connections has greatly increased over the last five years as a result of a newly negotiated Internet Service Provider contract that began in 2015.

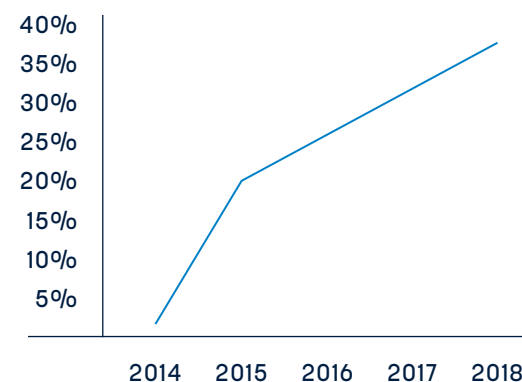
10 MBPS



100 MBPS



1 GBPS CONNECTIONS





The Maine Library Commission, a 17-member board appointed by the Governor, is broadly representative of the state's library community. The Commission establishes the policies and operations of the State Library, gives advice and makes recommendations on the expenditure of state and federal funds, and establishes guidelines and policies for statewide library programs.

Members of the Maine Library Commission

Joyce Rumery, *Chair* | Helen Fogler, *Vice Chair* | Deborah Averill | Jeffrey Cabral | Charles Campo
Heidi Grimm | Michael Hays | Melissa St. John | Richard Thompson | Arthur Turley
Donald Wismer | Sarah Campbell, *Ex-Officio Non-Voting* | Benjamin Treat, *Ex-Officio Non-Voting*

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