

Maine State Program Report Summary

Fiscal Year 2007

Version: 2 **Allotment:** \$1,177,883
Total Projects: 10 **Total LSTA Funds Expended:** \$1,177,883

	Project # / %	LSTA Funds \$ / %
Statewide	10 / 100%	\$1,177,883 / 100%
Partnership	6 / 60%	\$546,426 / 46%
Exemplary	3 / 30%	\$177,750 / 15%
OBE-Related	0 / 0%	\$0 / 0%

Section 1 | Grant Award Summary

Public Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 0
 Number of Applications: 0
 Total Requested: \$0

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Total Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Total Awarded: \$0

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Single Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Single Total Awarded: \$0

School Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 0
 Number of Applications: 0
 Total Requested: \$0

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Total Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Total Awarded: \$0

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Single Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Single Total Awarded: \$0

Academic Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 0
 Number of Applications: 0
 Total Requested: \$0

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
 Total Number of Grants Funded: 0
 Total Awarded: \$0

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Single Number of Grants Funded: 0
Single Total Awarded: \$0

Special Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 0
Number of Applications: 0
Total Requested: \$0

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Total Number of Grants Funded: 0
Total Awarded: \$0

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Single Number of Grants Funded: 0
Single Total Awarded: \$0

Multi-Type Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 0
Number of Applications: 0
Total Requested: \$0

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Total Number of Grants Funded: 0
Total Awarded: \$0

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Single Number of Grants Funded: 0
Single Total Awarded: \$0

SLAA Library Grants

Number of Libraries Submitting: 1
Number of Applications: 10
Total Requested: \$1,177,883

Total Libraries Receiving Grants: 1
Total Number of Grants Funded: 10
Total Awarded: \$1,177,883

Parent Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Parent Number of Grants Funded: 0

Child Libraries Receiving Grants: 0
Child Number of Grants Funded: 0
Parent/Child Total Awarded: \$0

Single Libraries Receiving Grants: 1

Single Number of Grants Funded: 10

Single Total Awarded: \$1,177,883

Section 2 | OBE Summary

Q1: What progress did you make in implementing OBE during this reporting period?

The Maine Regional Library System district consultants require evaluation forms to be completed and turned in at each of their workshops/continuing education sessions. The evaluation forms ask attendees to list the changes they anticipate making in their library programs to better meet patron needs as a result of attending the workshop/continuing education session. Starting in Oct. 2008, a follow-up survey was done weeks after the largest 2008 workshop asking participants to describe the changes that had been made. This, along with other such surveys, will be reported in the next SPR. Also the Outreach Services Programs (Books by Mail, Talking Books Plus, and Summer Reading Program) are planning to survey users in 2009. The Maine Cultural Affairs Council (which includes the Maine State Library) has carried out three focus groups this fall and surveyed people about the current and future role of Maine's cultural agencies. These results will also be reported in the next SPR. The Maine Humanities Council is developing a logic model evaluation protocol for "Let's Talk About It". In short, Maine is preparing to collect OBE data related to the goals above in the 2008-2012 State Plan.

Q2: Briefly describe your state's results in meeting its identified OBE goal(s) this reporting period.

Please see response above.

Section 3 | Project Reports

Project Code:	2007-ME-29410
Project Title: Administration	Project Number:
Library Name: Maine State Library	Project Director: Linda Lord
Phone Number: 207-287-5620	Email: linda.lord@maine.gov
Library Building: Maine State Library	
LSTA Funds Expended: \$47,115	Cash Match: \$610,716
In Kind Contributions: \$	Total Cost: \$657,831
Number of Persons Served:	
LSTA Purpose: Services for lifelong learning	State Goal: Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of library resources & services
IMLS Primary Performance Category: Provide access to information, resources and ideas	IMLS Secondary Performance Category: Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities
Primary Users: Statewide public	Secondary Users:
Primary Services: SLAA LSTA Administration	Secondary Services:
Start Date: 10/2/2006	End Date: 9/30/2008
Statewide?	Partnership?
Exemplary?	OBE-Related?
Project Purpose:	

The following information is from the State of Maine Administrative and Accounting Manual, Section 50.20.60.: "The Statewide Central Services Cost Allocation Plan (STACAP) is used to identify and assign central services costs. Most government units provide certain services such as accounting, computing, payroll, service, motor transport, etc. to operating agencies on a centralized bases. Since federally supported awards are performed within the individual operating agencies, a process is necessary to identify these central service costs and assign them to benefiting activities on reasonable and consistent bases. The federally reviewed and approved, statewide, central service cost allocation plan (STACAP) provides that process.

Project Activities/Methods:

The following information is also from the State of Maine Administrative and Accounting Manual, Section 50.20.60: "The Financial Reporting and Analysis Division of the Office of the State Controller prepares, administers, and submits to the federal government an annual central services cost allocation plan (STACAP) for the State. One part of the plan justifies and reconciles the activities of the billed State central services (internal service and self-insurance). A second part allocated the allowable costs of other State central services benefiting agencies expending federal awards." It is this second part that pertains to the Maine State Library's acceptance of LSTA funds.

Project Outputs:

The purpose of the STACAP is to defray the cost of State of Maine central services. The Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services is responsible for services that provide hearing and electricity, as well as protecting, cleaning and maintaining the Maine State Library facility.

Project Outcomes:

Other Results:

Anecdotal Info:

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:

2007-ME-29404

Project Title:

Books By Mail

Project Number:

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Christopher Boynton

Phone Number:

207-287-5650

Email:

chris.boynton@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$162,671

Cash Match:

\$158,438

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$321,109

Number of Persons Served:

7,053

LSTA Purpose:

Services to persons having difficulty using libraries

State Goal:

Goal 2. Improving library services to citizens with special needs

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Provide access to information, resources and ideas

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities

Primary Users:

People with special needs, Rural populations

Secondary Users:

Homebound persons

Primary Services:

Outreach Services

Secondary Services:

Books-by-mail

Start Date:

10/1/2006

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

The Books by Mail program is one of the Outreach Services of the Maine State Library. This service helps to meet the library needs of the more than 200,000 citizens in our large rural state (33,125 square miles with a population of 1,321,574) who live in towns without local libraries or in towns with public libraries open less than 15 hours a week. More details about the program may be found at <http://www.maine.gov/msl/outreach/booksbymail/>

Project Activities/Methods:

Rural and disabled/home bound Maine residents utilize the Books by Mail service from their homes. Patrons who do not have Internet access may make selections from paper catalogs. These are mailed to patrons upon request. Those who have the capacity to go on line can request and renew materials via an online public access catalog (OPAC) that is part of a state-wide consortium, MINERVA. Users are able to request anything available from the shared database through the OPAC. A formal reader advisory service allows users to request a specialized, recommended, reading list; the method for requesting is a form which is mailed to users and which may also be completed online. A summer reading program is conducted for the benefit of children enrolled in the Books by Mail program. MSL pays postage to and from homebound patrons. All others have to pay return postage only. A toll free phone number is provided to users. Materials selection and information about the program are available online All state-wide licensed on-line databases are available to Books by Mail Patrons. Promotion of this program has taken place at the Common Ground Fair. Over half of the people visiting the information booth asked questions about the Books by Mail program.

Project Outputs:

7,053 residents (3,536 adults and 3,517 juveniles, K-12) who can not access library services because of limited local library service, geographic isolation and/or disability or have been able to request materials and resources from the Maine State Library's Books by Mail program. 16,841 titles and 42,202 copies are in the Books by Mail collection. Materials are also available to users from other libraries in the LMS system, Minerva. These are not counted in the BBM circulation figures. 18,726 items were loaned by the Books by Mail program from our collection to BBM patrons. These figures do not include interlibrary loans. Due to mandated state budget cuts at MSL, patrons have been required to provide return postage for Books by Mail items. Circulation has decreased by 49% in the past year. Enrollees continue to increase but are borrowing fewer items per person.

Project Outcomes:

The recreational and informational needs of Maine's rural and homebound residents are met by this program. Many home-schoolers rely on materials from this program.

Other Results:

MSL Outreach Services frequently receives feedback from users who find that access to interlibrary loan vastly increases the usefulness of the program.

Anecdotal Info:

The following comments from users verify how important this program is to them: "Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you provide." "This is a wonderful program! Keep up the great work!!" "Thank you! I can't begin to tell you how much this service means to me." This impassioned plea was sent to the Maine's First Lady who forwarded it to MSL: "I recently sent for some (Books by Mail) books and when they arrived there was a notice that they could no longer pay for the return postage. For myself, it's not a big deal because I go to Augusta a couple of times a month and can drop the BBM by the library. I was, however, astonished that the state would cut this funding to a program that is so vital to the people who need it the most - people in the rural communities, low income and disadvantaged. When I first learned about the BBM program, it was in a rural family medical clinic where I found a catalog with the information on how to access the program. At the time I was raising three children, had an old vehicle and my husband had gone back to school. We were living on grants and loans. I was able to send for books and in the summers we participated in the summer reading program. My son was learning disabled in language and was able to choose books of his interest that made it more tolerable for him to read, and he also used the talking books program for many school assignments. My daughter loved getting the brown bags from the mailman, and she and I would spend hours reading the books on lazy summer afternoons. She was reading on her own before she started kindergarten and later won 3d place in the Maine spelling bee. I can't tell you enough what the BBM program meant to our family. I told so many other families about it...I pray that you can somehow help save this small but far reaching and vital program to serve the people who need it the most."

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:

2007-ME-29402

Project Title:

Cultural Affairs Council (Maine Cultural Agencies Partnership)

Project Number:

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Linda Lord

Phone Number:

207-287-5620

Email:

linda.lord@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$51,830

Cash Match:

\$33,578

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$85,408

Number of Persons Served:

1,000,000

LSTA Purpose:

Services for lifelong learning

State Goal:

Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of library resources & services

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Primary Users:

Statewide public

Secondary Users:

Primary Services:

Cultural Heritage Programs, Intergenerational Programs, Literacy Programs

Secondary Services:

Preservation

Start Date:

10/1/2006

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

Maine's Cultural Affairs Council is an alliance, authorized by the state Legislature, of Maine's seven statewide cultural agencies. Five of these agencies are public: the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Archives, Maine State Library, and the Maine State Museum. The other two are private 501 (c) (3) organizations: Maine Historical Society, and the Maine Humanities Council. The Cultural Affairs Council serves as a primary forum for interagency cooperation and planning. This structure improves communications, enhances coordination of work, and facilitates planning and administration for each of the participating agencies.

Project Activities/Methods:

The Council membership includes the chairman and vice-chairman of the governing body of each of the seven member agencies, and a chairman who is appointed by the Governor. Ex-officio members include the agency directors and a liaison representative from the Office of the Governor. The Council meets monthly, often in the Governor's mansion, the Blaine House, and Maine's First Lady, Karen Baldacci, frequently attends. Agendas include the work of each agency, common goals, and discussion of how agencies can support one another in achieving their goals. The following is a quote from the enabling legislation that created the Cultural Affairs Council: <http://www.maine.gov/cac/legislation.htm> "Statewide cultural planning. To meet jointly and at least annually with the directors of humanities councils in the State, the Maine State Archives, the Maine State Film Commission and the State Law Library and others as considered appropriate for the purpose of exchanging information and coordinating statewide cultural planning." In 2008 the Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs mandated that the CAC gather information from the citizens of Maine about the role and future of Maine's cultural agencies. This information is to be submitted in a report to the Legislature by Jan. 31, 2009. In October and November 2008, three public forums were held in Portland, Augusta and Bangor with several people participating via video from Presque Isle and Machias. A professional facilitator was present at these sessions to organize attendees into groups to answer a set of questions that all cultural agency chairs had helped prepare. A draft of the legislative report is being reviewed at this time.

Project Outputs:

The Cultural Affairs Council administers the New Century Community Program of matching grants. Funded by the Legislature since 1999, the New Century program has delivered, without reductions for administrative costs or overhead, more than \$5.7 million dollars in matching money for a wide range of cultural projects, from building restorations and library development to family literacy programming. The grants have leveraged more than three times the number of State dollars in private and federal funds. The Maine State Library works with Maine Historic Preservation (MHP) to ensure that all library construction/renovation projects of libraries on the National Register of Historic Places are approved by the MHP before work begins. The Maine State Library's work with the Maine Humanities Council is described in a separate project. The Maine State Library assisted in the preparation and is assisting in the implementation of a successful IMLS grant for digitization. The following is from the Maine Historical Society's web site: <http://www.mainehistory.org/news/news/1/detail/> "The Maine Historical Society Awarded

\$852,000 National Leadership Grant to Launch The Maine Community Heritage Project in 16 Towns and Cities Throughout The State" Portland, ME – The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded Maine Historical Society (MHS) a National Leadership Grant of \$852,000 over the next three years. The grant will enable MHS, in partnership with the Maine State Library, to launch the Maine Community Heritage Project in 16 towns and cities throughout the state. This is the largest programmatic grant MHS has ever received, and is the largest competitive grant awarded by this agency in Maine. It is an extremely prestigious honor: of the 213 applications submitted for this award, 43 were granted. "The Maine Community Heritage Project will foster working partnerships among local libraries, historical societies, teachers and students—all toward the end of creating vital online presentations of community history and culture," noted Richard D'Abate, Executive Director of Maine Historical Society. "Out of this project will come a number of new models: for community partnership, for the innovative use of technology, for engaging youth and building intergenerational cooperation, and for using local history as a community development tool." Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of IMLS, added, "Cultural institutions energize their communities by not just preserving culture, heritage, and knowledge, but by supporting life-long learning and engagement. National Leadership Grants harness the work of the best of these institutions. By promoting innovation and partnerships, they allow these institutions to create national models that address the challenges of the broader library and museum communities, and help strengthen their impact." One reviewer of the proposal commented, "The Maine Community Heritage Project is an inspired, ambitious project that utilizes state and local resources and involves young people in a way that is particularly innovative. This is an excellent example of a Leadership Project that has the power to impact communities throughout Maine and, by example, the nation." The mission of IMLS is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. To learn more about IMLS, go to www.imls.gov. Maine Historical Society preserves the heritage and history of Maine: the stories of Maine people, the traditions of Maine communities, and the record of Maine's place in a changing world.

Project Outcomes:

The Cultural Affairs Council (CAC) submits annual requests for legislation to support the work of Maine's cultural agencies. Member agencies report activities and future goals at monthly meetings and mutually support one another's projects whenever possible.

Other Results:

Anecdotal Info:

Exemplary Reason:

Seven independent (except for the Maine State Archives which serves under the Secretary of State) Maine cultural agencies voluntarily collaborate as members of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council. This collaboration may be unique; if not, it is unusual. Maine is a small state in terms of population and this type of mutual support is vital for all the cultural agencies to success in fulfilling their missions for the people of Maine.

Project Code:

2007-ME-29398

Project Title:

Maine Regional Library System

Project Number:

01

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Linda Lord, Acting State Librarian

Phone Number:

207-287-5620

Email:

Linda.lord@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$341,126

Cash Match:

\$1,622,042

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$1,963,168

Number of Persons Served:

800,000

LSTA Purpose:

Services for lifelong learning

State Goal:

Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of library resources & services

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Provide access to information, resources and ideas

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities

Primary Users:

Library staff and volunteers,
Statewide public

Secondary Users:

Primary Services:

Information Access and Services,
Interlibrary Loan, Staff Development
Education and Training

Secondary Services:

Information & referral (I&R),
Reference services, Document and
materials delivery, Resource sharing,
Customer services skills , Library
science education and skills, Technical
skills

Start Date:

10/1/2007

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the Maine Regional Library System is to promote improved service for the constituents of member libraries. It was created by Public Law 626, enacted in 1973, which established three library service districts based on population to improve library service for the citizens of Maine. Membership consists of public, school, academic, and special libraries. The Maine Regional Library System is administered by the Maine State Library in Augusta, however each district has its own board that sets goals and plans activities. There is one library consultant for each district. The overarching goals of the three regional district consultants are to: Goal I: Increase public awareness, use and support of Maine libraries Goal II: Facilitate professional development Goal III: Encourage resource sharing and regional cooperation Goal IV: Foster literacy Goal V: Improve communication among libraries, library organizations and other groups Goal VI: Foster improved library services

Project Activities/Methods:

In accordance with P.L. 626, An Act Creating Regional Library System, three Area Reference and Resource Centers (ARRCs) were created, one for each of the three service districts. Bangor and Portland Public Libraries receive state aid for the purpose of making their resources and services available without charge to all residents in their Districts...." The Maine State Library serves as the ARRC for the Central Maine Library District. ARRCs are also District hubs for the following services: Interlibrary loan - The interlibrary loan service supports libraries of every size and type. It insures that the state as a whole has the library resources it needs to meet the needs of all its citizens. ARRCs provide ILL service to member libraries by borrowing requested material from other libraries in the state, and if necessary to request materials from libraries beyond the state's borders. Reference Service - Reference and information service provided by the ARRCs is another important service of the District. Contact with ARRCs can be made via the fax, telephone, email or a toll-free telephone line. District Consultants - Each ARRC contains an office for the District's regional district consultant. The District Consultant provides professional library guidance to libraries in the district. The District, in cooperation with the Maine State Library and the District Executive Board/Council, provides technical assistance to cooperative interlibrary projects designed to promote equal access to library materials to all Maine people regardless of geographical location. The District Consultant maintains ongoing communication with library members and performs the following duties: - Serves as a professional consultant to libraries within the district or districts - Studies the needs of the district and makes recommendations to the district council -Coordinates services among libraries of all types -Provides liaison between the district, other districts and the Maine State Library -Fosters opportunities for continuing education, informs district librarians of its availability, and encourages librarians, library staff, library trustees and friends to participate and to attend state and regional workshops and other educational opportunities -Encourages local initiatives and commitment to regional cooperative library service (such as cluster groups and local constoria) -Works with area reference and resource center staff members in planning area reference and interlibrary loan service -Helps evolve a district plan of service -Continues to promote and support cooperative purchases among member libraries including books, databases and library supplies. -

Helps the District Executive Board/Council develop and refine its five-year district plan of library service in order to meet the intent of the law establishing the regional system. -Maintains communication with district librarians--something essential to promoting interlibrary cooperation and meeting the individual needs of libraries of all types--thus bringing better service to the state's library patrons. -Serves as a liaison between the Executive Board/Council and the Maine State Library and ensures smooth and effective cooperation and coordination of the regional library system programs. Cooperation among all libraries and librarians despite type of library and background of librarian's preparation is important to offering the most effective access to resources for patrons.

Project Outputs:

The three District ARRCs (Area Reference and Resource Centers (Bangor Public Library in the Northeastern Maine Library District (NMLD); Maine State Library in the Central Maine Library District (CMLD); and Portland Public Library in the Southern Maine Library District (SMLD) are responsible for serving all Maine residents in their district and for interlibrary loan and reference services for libraries in their districts. ARRC Interlibrary loans: Bangor Public Library - Borrowed 16,861 books from other libraries and loaned 23,099 books to other libraries. Bangor's collection size is 502,099 and their adult circulation for this reporting period was 251,100 volumes. The reference staff responded to 34,807 questions. Maine State Library (MSL) - Borrowed 42,451 items from other libraries and loaned 41,463 items to other libraries in state FY08. MSL's collection size is 284,433 not including government documents and serial subscriptions, and it circulated 46,473 items during FY08. The reference staff responded to 12,994 questions in state FY 07. Portland Public Library - Borrowed 11,831 items from other libraries and loaned 13,994 items to other libraries. Portland's collection size is 374,331 catalogued items and its total circulation for this reporting period was 807,276. The reference staff responded to 115,652 reference questions from October 2007-September 2008. District Consultants organized 20 continuing education opportunities attended by 457 Maine library staff. These C.E. sessions focused on a variety of topics related to technology and to reaching the underserved, e.g. how to teach library patrons the use of Maine's virtual library which includes the MARVEL databases; how to stay connected in a Library 2.0 world; automation for school libraries; library information technology; connecting boys with books; audio down loads and playaways; how to network a medical library; applying for federal e-rate support, and training in the use of WebJunction. Many of these applied a train the trainer approach so that libraries could pass information on to their patrons with confidence and appropriate techniques. The Coordinator of Learning and Technology Services gathered 12 LMS vendors and software vendors to provide a day-long workshop entitled "How to Automate Your Small Maine Library". 74 attendees participated in this session and 14 participated in a subsequent smaller session without vendors on the same topic. Consultants also respond to e-mail, telephone calls and site visit requests, related to all the LSTA goals.

Project Outcomes:

State-wide continuing education opportunities are provided through the coordination and collaboration of the three district consultants and their seven-member Executive Boards. Maine's interlibrary loan counts are very high for a state--especially when one realizes that the entire state's population is 1.3 million--fewer people than many cities. Resource sharing, a direct responsibility of the ARRC's and the District Consultants, is a success in Maine because the Regional Library System provides the smaller libraries with the education and tools to provide this service to the public. Maine's three district consultants are revered by the libraries they service. Their counsel, advice, training, and experience enable libraries to provide better service to their patrons and to reach more unserved and underserved patrons.

Other Results:

The District consultants collaborate with Maine libraries to work on SCOOP a consortium designed negotiate contracts for purchase of library materials and supplies from vendors. The District consultants also work on statewide programs such as Reading RoundUp, the Maine Library Excellence Award, an annual Public Library Directors' Institute; and a training session for new Maine public library directors. The Maine Regional Library System and the Portland Press Herald newspaper collaborated this year to produce a literary map of Maine. That project is now being expanded to an online book club focused on the books featured on the Literary Map. Readers can participate in forum discussions online with fellow book lovers. A different book will be chosen each month by Portland Press Herald readers. (pressherald.com)

Anecdotal Info:

E-mail to the Coordinator of Learning and Technology Services: "Is it possible to become addited to webinar? I've learned so much that I can't wait till I may do another webinar! Technology is a great thing!" Bangor Public Library, the ARRC for the Northeastern Maine Library District, reports that their average daily attendance beats any business downtown on any given day, except a bank on the day that Social Security checks come in." An e-mail from a school librarian regarding continuing education: "I was greatly influenced by the AUtomateME conference. (Thank you) for the opportunity to see other systems in action at the conference." Another school librarian seconded this: "The middel school librarian and I went to AutomateME - very helpful!

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:

2007-ME-29400

Project Title:

Partnership with Maine Department of Education and Maine Public Utilities Commission

Project Number:

03

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Linda Lord

Phone Number:

207-287-5620

Email:

linda.lord@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$34,075

Cash Match:

\$64,200

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$98,275

Number of Persons Served:

700,000

LSTA Purpose:

Library technology, connectivity, and services

State Goal:

Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of library resources & services

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Provide access to information, resources and ideas

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Primary Users:

Statewide public

Secondary Users:

Primary Services:

Information Access and Services, Technology Infrastructure, Virtual Library Services

Secondary Services:

Database access, Telecommunications and networking hardware and software, Portals and related Web projects

Start Date:

10/1/2007

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

The Maine State Library partners with the Maine Public Utilities Commission, the Maine Department of Education, and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance to administer the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN) which provided Internet Connectivity and technical support at no cost to Maine's schools and libraries.

Project Activities/Methods:

A Maine State Library (MSL) staff member serves as the contract administrator for the ISP and Connectivity contracts for MSLN. This staffer also supervises the MSLN project manager who is employed via a contract with the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. The project manager in turn supervises a Circuit Rider who is available to provide technical support to small libraries and schools who do not have an IT staff. MSL has also coordinated and submitted a consortia e-rate application for all schools and libraries. This year the Department of Education is assuming this responsibility for schools, and MSL is doing the consortia application for libraries. In order to do this, library connectivity needs are being analyzed annually by studying charts of individual library bandwidth use patterns provided by the MSLN ISP. This helps determine future needs. An RFP is currently under development for ISP and connectivity services for 2010-2013. Approximately 60% of MSLN is supported by the federal e-rate program and approximately 40% is financed by the Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund.

Project Outputs:

238 of Maine public libraries are on the Maine School and Library Network. Currently 209 libraries have a T-1 connection and 25 currently have two T-1 connections. One library shares a DS3 with their school district, Portland Public Library has 4 T1s at the Main Branch and Bangor Public Library has a DS3 connection. 35 libraries will apply for a second T-1 connection for the 09-10 E-rate FY 2009. The Maine State Library also has a DS3 connection.

Project Outcomes:

The Maine School and Library Network provides adequate bandwidth to meet the needs of MSLN public library patrons accessing on-line databases, On-line Public Access Catalogs, and other electronic resources (Web 2.0 and emerging technologies). MSLN, through the Circuit Rider and MSL staff, provide support and guidance for technical problems, E-rate application assistance, and general technology information.

Other Results:

All public libraries in Maine have equal access to electronic communication and information - from the smallest offshore island to the largest city - thanks to MSLN. MSLN is the electronic conduit through which all Department of Education and Maine State Library electronic services flow. Online library management systems, online public access catalogs, electronic ILL and renewal services, "Ask A Librarian" on the maine.gov web site, reference assistance via e-mail, and access to library web sites and online databases would not be possible for many Maine libraries without MSLN.

Anecdotal Info:

185 of Maine public libraries now offer wireless access to patrons. Some of our smallest libraries with limited hours are able to expand access to library services for patrons with wireless connectivity made possible by MSLN.

Exemplary Reason:

All Maine public libraries (and schools) are connected to the Internet at a T-1 speed or better at no cost to the local taxpayer. Charges for the Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund are assessed on individual phone bills and average around 10 cents per month.

Project Code:

2007-ME-29399

Project Title:

Partnership with Maine Humanities
Countil

Project Number:

01

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Linda Lord, MSL; Lizz Sinclair, Maine
Humanities Countil

Phone Number:

207-287-5620

Email:

linda.lord@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$25,000

Cash Match:

\$9,297

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$34,297

Number of Persons Served:

671

LSTA Purpose:

Services for lifelong learning

State Goal:

Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of
library resources & services

**IMLS Primary Performance
Category:**

Enhance a lifetime of learning
opportunities

**IMLS Secondary Performance
Category:**

Strengthen communities

Primary Users:

Adults

Secondary Users:

Primary Services:

Continuing Education for the Public,
Cultural Heritage Programs, Literacy
Programs

Secondary Services:

Lifelong learning, Adult literacy

Start Date:

10/1/2006

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

"Let's Talk About It" is a reading and discussion program for adults offered by the Maine Humanities Council in partnership with the Maine State Library and other libraries across the state. Each of the 43 topical series in "Let's Talk About It" consists of 4-5 theme-based titles. The project purpose is to have participants share ideas, perceptions, and learning from what they have read under the guidance of a trained facilitator. To quote from the ALA Public Programs web site, <http://publicprograms.ala.org/Itai/>, "The program model involves reading a common series of books selected by a nationally known scholar, and discussing them in the context of a larger, overarching theme. Reading and discussion groups explore the theme through the lens of the humanities - that is, by relating the readings to historical trends and events, other works of literature, philosophical and ethical considerations...It is hoped that the reading and discussion programs developed through "Let's Talk About It" will help participants come to see firsthand the ways in which the humanities give profound meaning to the human experience.

Project Activities/Methods:

Again from <http://publicprograms.ala.org/Itai/> The format for a "Let's Talk About It" program involves a 10-week series on a given theme. A discussion group meets with a local humanities scholar in the library. Every two weeks the group comes together to discuss a theme-related book they have all read. The scholar opens the program, bringing the book to life, provoking the group's curiosity with insights and background on the author and the work. At the same time, the scholar relates the reading to the theme, raising questions and creating a catalyst that sparks discussion. The audience breaks into smaller groups to talk about the book, share ideas and raise more questions. The large group reconvenes for final discussion and closing comments. The Maine State Library (MSL) contributed \$25,000 toward the cost of this program (which also receives \$24,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities; \$2,415 from individuals; and \$5,000 from private foundations) in addition to in-kind donations. MSL also stores the "Let's Talk About It" books, schedules and ships them, and pays the postage involved in doing so. Public libraries apply to participate in the "Let's Talk About It" program and provide meeting spaces. The Maine Humanities Council (MHC) asks participants to fill out evaluations asking about the effectiveness of the facilitator and series, as well as the time and setting, why they attended, and what they liked about the program. MHC is beginning work on a more detailed, logic-model based evaluation instrument to use with the participants, linking the goals for the program more closely with the questions asked in the participant evaluation form. Both librarians and participants speak of this being a way to build and maintain community, as well as for intellectual stimulation.

Project Outputs:

In 2008 39 libraries participated in "Let's Talk About It" programs involving 671 participants.

Project Outcomes:

The intellectual stimulation and camaraderie made possible by this program are significant in the lives of the participants. Rural Maine winters are long (and all but a few areas of Maine are rural). Providing an opportunity for people to leave their homes and engage with others in meaningful discussion is enriching and much appreciated. "Let's Talk About It" is a major factor in life-long-learning for participants.

Other Results:

The number of entities and funding sources that make this program possible show collaboration, and how much this program is valued, in a very concrete way.

Anecdotal Info:

Comments from librarians: "In a time when library budgets are severely strained, the Maine Humanities Council (MHC) makes it possible to offer top-notch adult educational programming. Our community, especially our seniors, appreciates the enrichment and fellowship." "We always have such great success with these book discussion series; our patrons and series participants began asking what's next before our last series was over. The attendance for this series was higher than past series; it attracted new participants as well as the regulars who look to the library for their intellectual and cultural pursuits. Our library functions very much as the cultural center of the town and this book discussion series helps us fill a need that would be missing because of our own time constraints and money issues." "We have an active discussion group year round and have found that these series are a good fit and attract a wider audience." "We've created more communication with our patrons in finding out what they want and/or need from the library. I personally have created more relationships with these people and feel more as a part of this community." "There was great interest in the subject; most participants were very pleased with the program; and it helps our whole community to be better informed about a part of the world that affects us all. The program helped to bring some new people into our library." What made people want to participate? Here's what participants wrote in their evaluations: The winter blues! I am addicted to "Let's Talk About It! I like expanding my mind. I like talking about books I don't ordinarily read. Talking about books deepens reading experience. Because of good book choices relevant to an interesting theme. I like the idea of a thematic book discussion group. I like having the opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions, and interpretations of books being read. I like to see how other people interpret what we've read. When I have finished a good book I always wish I could discuss the plot and author! I enjoy the company of others and the facilitator. The opportunity to hear about other's opinions and feelings about the same books. Hearing opinions that were different than mine. They made me stop and re-examine the plots. Group interaction and seeing how differently we read the same book through our own individual filters. The previous programs have been stimulating and great to attend and participate in. A chance to get together in a group. A book a month to read and discuss. I participated last year and enjoyed it so wanted to come again. The willingness of everyone to share. No one tried to be the only one whose opinion counted. I have attempted to follow the politics [of the Middle East] but need a lot of help. Different points of view are important for me to help me understand. Past programs were wonderful. Love of books, made new

friends. I participated because of my desire to be a better-informed citizen. [This was] a much deeper examination of the Middle East than I get in more mainstream media. I enjoying the fellowship and company of other mystery readers since that is usually a solitary activity. It's great to connect with others. I appreciate the serious approach to literature offered in a facilitated group; I hope to do this again. I participated due to a desire to share knowledge and for fellowship. Desire to learn of other cultures and success of past programs at the YPL. There are many Indians in the field of medicine like my doctors. I would like to know more about their culture (in reference to a series on South East Asian lit).

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:

2007-ME-29401

Project Title:

Partnership with the University of
Maine

Project Number:

04

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

James Jackson Sanborn

Phone Number:

207-581-3083

Email:

james.jacksonsanborn@maine.edu

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$91,845

Cash Match:

\$619,927

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$711,772

Number of Persons Served:

900,000

LSTA Purpose:

Library technology, connectivity, and
services

State Goal:

Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of
library resources & services

**IMLS Primary Performance
Category:**

Provide access to information,
resources and ideas

**IMLS Secondary Performance
Category:**

Provide tools for the future

Primary Users:

Library staff and volunteers,
Statewide public

Secondary Users:

Primary Services:

Digitization and Digital Library
Projects, Technology Infrastructure,
Virtual Library Services

Secondary Services:

Digitization, Integrated library
systems, Virtual union catalogue

Start Date:

10/1/2007

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

Maine InfoNet is an umbrella term covering the partnership of Maine libraries dedicated to improving information and library service to all Mainers through online systems and technology. Supported by the Maine State Library and the University of Maine System, it develops and manages services that unite electronic and physical resources to form a digital library for Maine.

Project Activities/Methods:

Eight major components comprise Maine InfoNet. 1. MaineCat The MaineCat Statewide Catalog links 8 large online catalogs, Minerva, and SOLAR into a single, powerful, dynamically updated statewide library database for Maine. 2. Marvel Every Maine citizen has access to MARVEL!: Maine's Virtual Library, which provides every resident of Maine with free access to a collection of full text and abstracts from magazines, newspapers and reference books that are credible, reputable resources. MARVEL is funded by the Maine Legislature, the University of Maine, and the PUC-supervised Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund. Annual decisions on purchases are made by a committee from Maine InfoNet, the Maine State Library, and the University of Maine. 3. URSUS This consortia automated library system serves the University of Maine System libraries, plus the Maine State Library, Bangor Public Library, Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library and Maine State Archives. 4. Minerva Minerva is a statewide, integrated library system started by the Maine InfoNet Project and maintained cooperatively by participating libraries in association with the Maine State Library. Libraries apply for membership and pay \$3,750 annually. 5. SOLAR Libraries not using another compatible library automation system can participate in the MaineCat Statewide Catalog by contributing records to the SOLAR database. 6. Walk-In-Wireless in Public Libraries Project The Maine State Library's Walk-In-Wireless Infrastructure for Libraries proposal to the Maine Learning Technology Endowment's Innovative and Advanced Technology Grant program was approved in 2002. The Maine Public Utilities Commission approved \$120,000 with which to introduce wireless technology in 50 public libraries. 7. Digital Library Projects and Technologies Building on work done at the University of Maine, Maine InfoNet is creating and expanding access to digitized information resources statewide. The Maine State Library and Fogler Library at the University of Maine have recently collaborated to digitize town reports. 8. Maine InfoNet announced a new Downloadable Audio Project in the fall of 2008 This project will provide online access to downloadable audio books, eBooks and other popular digital media. Patrons of libraries joining this partnership will be able to checkout downloadable digital content via the Internet utilizing state-of-the-art digital copyright protection technologies for free, 24/7, from a statewide collection of audio books. For additional information regarding the project please see <http://www.maine.gov/infonet/digital/audio.shtml>

Project Outputs:

MaineCat The 7.6 million items in MaineCat represent the holdings of 113 libraries. 3.4 million unique items are listed in the MaineCat online catalog.

MARVEL The number of logins and searches on the MARVEL databases has increased steadily from year to year. The last two years are reported below.

7/06-6/07	7/07-6/08	FY07-FY08
772242	1030163	0.333989863 (logins)
3102045	3487050	0.124113287 (searches)

MARVEL is comprised of 52 research indexes and databases. URSUS 16 individual libraries belong to the URSUS network. 3,623,375 items are listed in the URSUS online catalog. During the reporting period, 748,263 items were checked out or renewed using the URSUS system. 67,424 items were borrowed between libraries, via the URSUS interlibrary loan requesting system. MINERVA 62 libraries belong to the Minerva library management system (LMS). 2,873,132 items are listed in the MINERVA online catalog. During the reporting period, 4,349,457 items were checked out or renewed using the MINERVA system. 389,776 items were borrowed via the MINERVA interlibrary loan requesting system. SOLAR 31 libraries contribute records to MaineCat using the SOLAR system. During the reporting 54,822 items were borrowed using the SOLAR interlibrary loan requesting system. WALK-In Wireless in Public Libraries Project Walk-In Wireless makes it possible for public libraries to implement wireless data network technology in support of enhanced public access to online information. Wireless connectivity also enhances the number and flexibility of library-owned public internet access machines available to the public through use of wireless interface cards in notebook and desktop computers, and makes possible walk-in Internet access by library patrons using their own portable computers. 184 of Maine's 274 public libraries now offer wireless service. Digital Library Projects and Technologies The University of Maine and the Maine State Library has collaborated to digitize 150 town reports spanning years from 1850 to 1950. The Maine State Library has been supplying the Optical Character Recognition indexing for the town reports once they have been scanned. Downloadable Audio Books Maine InfoNet received a \$40,000 grant to offer libraries everywhere in the state the opportunity to provide their patrons online access to downloadable audio books, e-Books and other popular digital media through OverDrive. The grant will pay for the configuration and license fees for three years and for one year of maintenance fees. Libraries that join this new project will be asked to pay an annual fee to purchase content. Patrons will be able to checkout downloadable digital content via the Internet utilizing state-of-the-art digital copyright protection technologies for free, 24/7, from a statewide collection of audio books. Audio books can be downloaded in full or in segments, burned to a CD (where permitted by publisher) and/or transferred to hundreds of supported audio devices such as MP3 Players, iPods (where permitted by publisher) or Zune players. 130 libraries statewide representing academic, public, and school libraries have joined this partnership.

Project Outcomes:

MaineCat MaineCat provides the most comprehensive, searchable database of library materials available statewide throughout Maine. Library members search across all of the holdings and can request materials that will be delivered to their local library, often within just a few days. Depending on their library affiliations, many patrons can request items directly using their service, while all others are able to make requests mediated by their local libraries. MARVEL MARVEL provides a wealth of research information to every citizen of the State of Maine through the online collection of databases and research indexes. Users connect to the MARVEL databases from their libraries, workplaces and homes and are URSUS URSUS provides online searching, borrowing, and requesting for all of the University of Maine System Libraries as well as Bangor Public Library and the Maine State Library. Patrons are able to search and directly request materials from other URSUS and MaineCat libraries and receive those items delivered to their local library in a matter of days. MINERVA MINERVA provides online searching, borrowing, and requesting for 62 libraries across the state. Patrons are able to search and directly request materials from other MINERVA and MaineCat libraries and receive those items delivered to their local library in a matter of days. SOLAR SOLAR provides mediated borrowing and requesting to the materials located in MaineCat to the patrons of member libraries. Items can be requested with the help of librarians and are delivered to the patrons at their local library within a matter of days. WALK-In Wireless in Public Libraries Project This project has delighted students. All middle school students in Maine are provided with individual laptops. Those who are allowed to take them home may now use them at their public libraries during the evening, on weekends, and during school vacations. Digital Library Projects and Technologies Online access to digitized town reports help historians, genealogists, and town employees. Towns are required to mail copies of their annual reports to the Maine State Library. They may be used here, but do not circulate. Now all citizens can access them via the University of Maine's Fogler Library web site. Downloadable Audio Books - This program will allow any library in Maine that chooses to participate to give its patrons access to a large digital collection. This service would not be possible for many small libraries. This collaboration will also benefit larger libraries since each library will not have to contract for basic set up and pay the annual maintenance fees.

Other Results:

Anecdotal Info:

Exemplary Reason:

This is an exemplary example of collaboration among various types of libraries. The University of Maine and the Maine State Library have a memo of understanding that allows joint hiring, supervision, and salary responsibility for the Administrative Director of Maine InfoNet. A 12-member Executive Board representing the types of libraries in Maine InfoNet meets monthly with the Administrative Director. Private colleges, community colleges, school libraries, special libraries and public libraries representatives plus the University of Maine IT CEO and the State of Maine OIT (Office of Information Technology) Director serve on this Board. It is a remarkable bringing together of various types of libraries for the common good of meeting the needs of Maine library patrons.

Project Code:

2007-ME-29409

Project Title:

Summer Reading Programs

Project Number:

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

James Roy

Phone Number:

207-287-5650

Email:

jroy@mestate.lib.me.us

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$2,550

Cash Match:

\$9,200

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$11,750

Number of Persons Served:

1,241

LSTA Purpose:

Services for lifelong learning

State Goal:

Goal 2. Improving library services to citizens with special needs

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Strengthen families and children

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities

Primary Users:

Children, Young adults and teens

Secondary Users:

Disadvantaged children

Primary Services:

Education-Related Services for Children and Teens, Literacy Programs, Outreach Services

Secondary Services:

Summer reading programs, Special needs services

Start Date:

10/1/2006

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the Summer Programs is to encourage children to enjoy reading during the summer, to discover some of the many wonderful children's books available, and to help create healthy, lifelong learning habits in young people. All Maine Children can join a reading program at their community's participating public library or school library through the state-wide Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) or through the Maine State Library's Outreach Programs (Books by Mail, Talking Books/Large Print). A variety of research projects has demonstrated that participation in summer reading programs help cut down on the phenomenon of summer reading loss, where critical skills are diminished through lack of use.

Project Activities/Methods:

For the summer of 2008 the Collaborative Summer Reading Program (CLSP) program (theme "Catch the Reading Bug" was co-sponsored by the Maine Library Association's Youth Services Section (MLA/YSS). MLA provided publicity about this new practice to the state's libraries and explained that the Outreach Service division of MLA would be disseminating the manuals. MLA/YSS acted as the fiscal agent for libraries wishing to purchase the \$10 summer reading manual. Outreach Services of MSL provided delivery service for the manuals. An anonymous donor provided the \$350 fee for the license needed to participate in the CLSP program. Outreach Services also provided summer reading materials to children who participate in any of the three Outreach Services programs (Books by Mail, Taking Books and Large Print Books). A one page informational letter including a registration form was mailed to all program participants in April 2008.

Project Outputs:

CLSP manuals were distributed via van delivery service or U.S. postal mail to 109 public libraries. A conservative estimate is that a minimum of ten children participated in the summer reading program at each of these libraries for a total of 1090. 134 children participating in the Books by Mail program signed up for summer reading and 67 completed the program by reading five books and submitting these titles to MSL/OS. 17 Large Print/Talking Books child participants registered and 15 completed. Children not served by local libraries or in areas served by very small libraries with limited staff and hours have the opportunity to participate in a summer reading program with thoughtfully developed themes, graphics, and programming ideas. For other outcomes, please see the anecdotal information below.

Project Outcomes:

The centralized approach to summer reading program has resulted in many more children enrolling in these programs. The following notes from two directors of small libraries described this outcome well: "As the new director... I was happy when we went from three children in the summer reading program to 57. The CLSP manual gave us many ideas and examples to make a great program for the kids. Since we are so small and all volunteers, it really helps to have a guide to go by - and so many options within the guide." The second library director from a Maine town of 1800 said, "The quality of the package (CSLP manual) is outstanding. I sincerely doubt we could get volunteers to plan and present the program without such a comprehensive handbook. We had over 30 kids participate at one time or another during the program and that's impressive in our small town." It is critical to us that the benefits gained from a summer reading program impact many more Maine children since the CLSP program was implemented. The children participating in Outreach Services programs are using the same materials and are part of a state-wide group rather than being segregated into a separate program because of their geography or special needs. This heterogeneity is important also. Once librarian commented: I remember reading somewhere about how much of what is learned in the prior school year is lost if kids don't read over the summer. The figure was striking.

Other Results:

A youth services librarian commented that, "Being part of the Collaborative Summer Reading Program has been a true benefit to Maine Libraries, children's librarians and ultimately to the children of Maine.

Anecdotal Info:

More librarians respond to the CLSP program: Every program has been excellent. The content is always versatile and can be suited to all age groups. The work is pretty much done for us and we just implement it to suit our youth. An impassioned librarian wrote: This has got to be one of the most broadly beneficial programs of the State Library. Summer reading is one of the most important services public libraries offer kids and families. Library summer reading programs are the only summer enrichment available to a lot of kids in our state. Some of us in public libraries have saved money and time because paid performers who want to do a lot of work in Maine public libraries have worked up entire presentation geared to the collaborative program there. We've hired people we'd never be able to afford because they've offered a cut rate to do their presentation at serve libraries in succession. There's also a benefit to shared and repeated publicity. Parents hear the summer reading message coming fro libraries that have good access to publicity and it prompts them to ask whether their own hometown library is offering something similar.

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:

2007-ME-29406

Project Title:

Talking Books Plus (Large Print, Talking Books, and Descriptive Videos)

Project Number:

Library Name:

Maine State Library

Project Director:

Christopher Boynton

Phone Number:

207-287-5650

Email:

chris.boynton@maine.gov

Library Building:

Maine State Library

LSTA Funds Expended:

\$390,520

Cash Match:

\$391,383

In Kind Contributions:

\$

Total Cost:

\$781,903

Number of Persons Served:

2,570

LSTA Purpose:

Services to persons having difficulty using libraries

State Goal:

Goal 2. Improving library services to citizens with special needs

IMLS Primary Performance Category:

Provide access to information, resources and ideas

IMLS Secondary Performance Category:

Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities

Primary Users:

Adults, Children, People with special needs

Secondary Users:

Disadvantaged children, Blind and visually-impaired persons

Primary Services:

Education-Related Services for Children and Teens, Information Access and Services, Outreach Services

Secondary Services:

Summer reading programs, Reference services, Special needs services

Start Date:

10/1/2006

End Date:

9/30/2008

Statewide?

Partnership?

Exemplary?

OBE-Related?

Project Purpose:

The Talking Books Plus program includes these components: 1. Large Print Books program purpose: To directly or through public libraries meet the informational and recreational needs of residents of Maine who are certified as being blind, visually impaired, or physically handicapped. 2. Talking Books and Descriptive Video program purpose: The Maine State Library continues as Maine's regional library system for the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) providing talking books statewide. The main purpose of this program is to equalize services statewide to the blind and physically handicapped. Outreach Services of MSL also provides descriptive videos to these individually enrolled patrons.

Project Activities/Methods:

A patron handbook explaining the Talking Books Plus program is atomically distributed to all newly enrolled patrons. Each new registrant is contacted by phone and helped through the registration process. New patrons are asked about the number of books they would like to receive at one time; if they would like books automatically selected or not; and if they would like to be able to request books online. A summer reading program is offered to all juvenile patrons. The coordinator of Outreach Services provides liaison functions with the National Library Service. Publicity and promotional activities continue in an effort to reach more readers. NLS has a national radio ad that provides an 800 number. This number in turn provides contact information for the nearest NLS regional library, distribution of NLS and locally produced brochures and bookmarks, displays and collaboration with other Maine State Library activities, public libraries, and other organizations including: Common Ground Fair (a huge three day country fair that draws thousands of people and has a special area reserved for community action agencies) The Outreach Services director provided displays and spoke at five Elder Fairs. Business and community groups are invited to display at these fairs aimed at providing knowledge of services for senior citizens. The Outreach Services Director also provided information and spoke at two Vision Fairs (Brunswick and Bangor) which are directed at people with visual disabilities. The Outreach Services Director also did a presentation at the Maine Libraries Conference highlighting Outreach Services materials available for visually and physically disabled students and did a presentation to the Maine Library Commission on Outreach services. He is also the representative for AIM/NIMAS - Accessible Instructional Materials (Maine based) and National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) This is a program designed to obtain textbooks and classroom materials for K-12 students with disabilities. The Director serves on the Vocational Rehabilitation Council for the State of Maine Division for the Blind. Outreach Services continues to maintain a functional, Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) through its participation in the Consortium of User Libraries (CUL).

Project Outputs:

83,449 talking books, 167 descriptive videos and 11,102 large print books were distributed to individuals in the past year. Public libraries, schools and retirement homes received 3,378 talking books, 2 descriptive videos, and 16,660 large print books. Materials sent to institutions may circulate to more than one patron. 432 new patrons enrolled in Talking Books Plus services in the past year for a total of 2570 active patrons. If a patron is not active for a 12 month period, his or her record has deleted from enrolled status. 611 active institutions receive materials via the Talking Books Plus program.

Project Outcomes:

The informational and recreational reading needs of blind and visually impaired Maine residents are being met through this program. A survey of users was done in early 2007 and will be repeated in 2009.

Other Results:

Maine is a geographically large state with areas that are remote and sparsely settled. It is a relatively poor state whose local governments often struggle to support basic library services. The Talking Books Plus program offers materials state-wide that local libraries can not begin to acquire or distribute. The anecdotal information below reflects the value of this program in enriching peoples' lives.

Anecdotal Info:

Talking Books Plus receives a great deal of anecdotal feedback by mail, telephone, and e-mail. The most often used phrase is "this program is a life line!" The following comments are a sample of user feedback: "Thank you with all my heart. Your program is a true blessing." "...As I progress from vision problems to other limiting ailments and spend more time in a darkened room or at least in a prone position, I value more and more the audio books that take me out of my 10x10 bedroom into other realms, from the Wild West to English castles to solving a crime on Martha's vineyard. It is agony to feel helplessness, not be able read and take oneself out of the space to which you are confined into that larger worlds of books, but MSL Talking Books does that. It is my magic carpet and you are all ANGELS...thank you all for your dedication to your work and for making me feel I have a coterie of dear caring friends in Augusta!" "Talking Books fills a great void in my life." "This service made my mother's life much richer." "I was talking to a special education teacher today and she was looking for audio books for a sight impaired students. She was directed to talk to someone at the Maine State Library. She was incredibly happy to din that she did not have to pay for equipment, audio books or other adaptive services. One happy customer!" "I want to express my appreciation for the Large Print books by mail. My mother...has elderly macular degeneration and her only pleasure is in receiving her books by mail and losing herself into her reading." "It is such a gift to be loaned books to read that I can see. Pure fun and pleasure." "Words can not express how grateful XXX has always been for the wonderful service given him from the Library for the Blind...this (material) made his life bearable, comfortable and enriched. What a tremendous service the State offers those who need it so very much." "Thank you again for this wonderful program (Talking Books). I never lack for a book." "Thank you so much for this beautiful service (Talking Books). It has quickly become a lifeline for my mother. She is using them voraciously now. Is it possible to up the quantity

of books for her to 8 or 10?" "This has been a very difficult year and the (Talking) books have helped so much."

Exemplary Reason:

Project Code:	2007-ME-29403
Project Title: Van Delivery System	Project Number:
Library Name: Maine State Library	Project Director: Dean Corner
Phone Number: 207-287-5600	Email: dean.corner@maine.gov
Library Building: Maine State Library	
LSTA Funds Expended: \$31,151	Cash Match: \$34,827
In Kind Contributions: \$	Total Cost: \$65,978
Number of Persons Served: 245,000	
LSTA Purpose: Services for lifelong learning	State Goal: Goal 1. Partnering for expansion of library resources & services
IMLS Primary Performance Category: Provide access to information, resources and ideas	IMLS Secondary Performance Category: Enhance a lifetime of learning opportunities
Primary Users: Adults, Children, Statewide public	Secondary Users:
Primary Services: Information Access and Services, Interlibrary Loan	Secondary Services: Reference services, Document and materials delivery, Resource sharing
Start Date: 10/1/2006	End Date: 9/30/2008
Statewide?	Partnership?
Exemplary?	OBE-Related?
Project Purpose: The Statewide Interlibrary Loan Van Delivery Service is a voluntary service where participating libraries use a courier to deliver library books and materials to facilitate interlibrary lending and borrowing throughout the State of Maine.	
Project Activities/Methods:	

The Maine State Library contracts with a courier to provide delivery of interlibrary loan materials for Maine libraries not already part of a delivery system. All types of libraries - public, school, academic, special, and medical - are eligible to participate in this voluntary service. Each participating library pays a fee based upon the number of stops per week. All material must be contained in special totes. VelocityExpress is the current courier; they also provide service for URSUS libraries and Bates, Bowdoin and Colby Colleges. Open enrollment periods to join the van delivery system are May and November. Libraries are required to fill in all fields in the form below to request joining the ILL van delivery service. They must also add the days of the week they want pick up (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, and/or Fri) and library hours. Filling in and submitting this form constitutes a six month commitment to the delivery service. Join Interlibrary Loan Van Delivery Service: Request Information Purpose: Join Interlibrary Loan Van Delivery Service Contact Person: Email Address: Library Name: Library Phone #: Street Address: City/Town: Zip Days of Week: Mon: | Tues: | Wed: | Thurs: | Fri: Number of totes: Library Hours: Comments: There is a billing online form for questions related to billing as well as an "edit van delivery information form". Fees are based on the # of deliveries per week. Participants determine how many days a week, from Monday to Friday, they need pick up and delivery. The current rates are: Rates by Number of Stops Per Week Daily Rate Quarterly Rate Annual Rate One \$11.50 \$149.50 \$598.00 Two \$23.00 \$299.00 \$1,196.00 Three \$34.50 \$448.50 \$1,794.00 Four \$46.00 \$598.00 \$2,392.00 Five \$57.50 \$747.50 \$2,990.00 Libraries receive a bill from Maine state Library at the beginning of each quarter (Jul-Sept; Oct-Dec; Jan-Mar; Apr-June). The bill credits libraries for official state of Maine holidays. If a library's delivery is skipped or is not able to receive a delivery because of weather, etc., those credits appear on the following quarter's bill.

Project Outputs:

151 Maine libraries are currently participating in the van delivery system.

Project Outcomes:

Interlibrary loans are processed more quickly (as the material is placed in totes rather than being packaged for U.S. mail). The material reaches the requesting library in as quickly as one or two days rather than up to more than a week which was often the case when the U.S. postal system was used. Libraries are saving significant money in postage as using the van delivery service not only requires less staff time and provides faster delivery, but is also less expensive than U.S. postage for most libraries (i.e. those that do any amount of ILL). A library in a Maine city with a population of 15,402 reports the following savings: We are on track to complete 25466 ILL transactions this fiscal year. 25466 (projected ILL activity) X \$2.12 (this is minimum cost to mail one item) = \$53,988 53988 / 248 (5 days X 52 weeks - 12 holidays) = \$217/day 217.00 - 11.50 = \$205.50 savings per day \$205.50 X 248 = \$50,964 savings per year. This is more than 12% of our operating budget. Another smaller library (town's population 7252) reports the following: "SBPL in the last 6 months has handled approximately 287 ILL's (sending and receiving). Of that number approximately 229 items went by van. If each book was mailed at an average of \$2.45, the total shipping expenses for would be \$560.05. Instead, with a weekly fee of \$11.50, we spent a total of \$299.00. That is a savings of \$261.05. I bet the savings

would be even more if calculated on a yearly basis as the six-month period used includes July and August, which had fewer ILL requests than in other months. I figure that we have to send out 4.69 books per pick up to break even each week (\$11.50/\$2.45)."

Other Results:

Librarians love the speed and convenience of this service. Patrons are delighted to receive material so quickly. ILL's can be requested on-line directly by patrons. They do not need to go through their home libraries thus saving time and money, and materials are received more quickly.

Anecdotal Info:

A participating library reports: "We could not do anywhere near the volume of ILL we do without the delivery service. It is a tremendous bargain." Another comments: "The delivery not only saves money otherwise spent on postage buy it also saves us two trips to the post office every week."

Exemplary Reason:
