The New Maine Regional Library System

## What's changing…and what's remaining the same

Maine Libraries Conference – November 2016

MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

October 1973…

The Maine Regional Library System
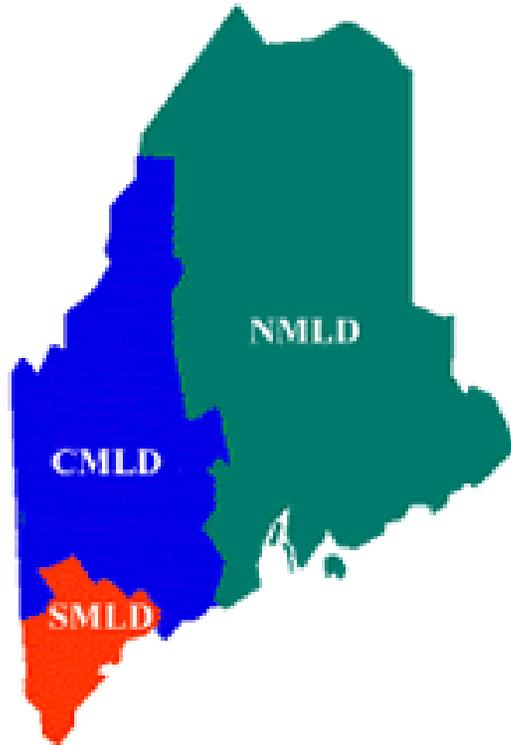
Three districts…
Three consultants…

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

The future of the MRLS was discussed in 1999

Maine's Regional
Library System:
A History

by

Robert C. Woodward

February, 1999
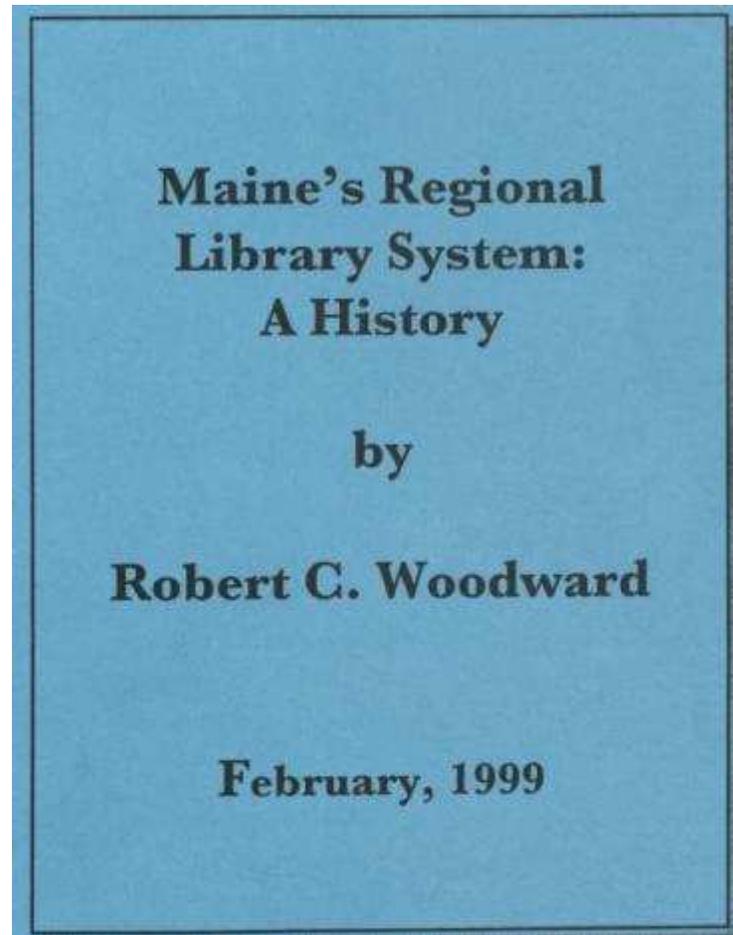
Success in 1999

- The Regional Library Systems Act was working

- Concerns about the loss of local autonomy were put to rest.

- ARRCs have improved access to collections and services for public and school libraries.

- Local library staffs are better prepared through the support offered by the District Consultants.

The report concluded with notes about "unfinished business"

- A statewide borrower's card

- Many libraries do not tie into the system

- They seldom use interlibrary loan services and they seldom call for reference help

What can be done to widen and improve access to library services for residents of those Maine towns?

MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

•5.

Technology changes since MRLS was created

1973   Robert Metcalfe links computers together – calls it Ethernet.

1976   Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs launch the Apple I

1981   The Space Shuttle makes its maiden voyage.

1989   Tim Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web.

1990   Windows 3.0

1991   Linus Torvalds creates the first version of Linux

1996   Webmail introduced

1996   Maine School and Library Network launches for libraries and schools

1997   Electronics companies agree to make Wi-Fi a worldwide standard for wireless Internet.

2000   USB Flash, jump, stick, thumb drive debuts

2001   The Wikipedia online encyclopedia is founded by Larry Sanger and Jimmy Wales.

2006   Facebook and Twitter

2007   Amazon.com launches its Kindle electronic book (e-book) reader.

2007   Apple iPhone and Google Android OS

2009   Google becomes the dominant search engine

2010   500 million users on Facebook

2010   iPad introduced

2011   Monthly unique visitors to Google surpassed one billion

2013   Surface Pro

2015   Libraries and schools on MSLN get minimum100 mbps fiber connections

Since 1999

- MSLN connections go from 56K to T1s to multiple T1s to a network that now offers connections from a minimum of 100 mbps to a gigabit. All fiber…

- ILS growth: Minerva and now MILS. More smaller libraries have automated

- MaineCat participation

- Rapid expansion of ILL plus van delivery

Gradual evolution at MSL with staff serving libraries

- E-rate and technology consultant
- Early literacy consultant
- STEM librarian
- Shift of school library consultant responsibilities

Statewide coverage and service

MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Library needs also evolved

- Generalist knowledge needed to be expanded
- More reliance on subject specialist – on and outside MSL staff
- Harder to hire a well rounded "generalist"
- Higher expectations from libraries
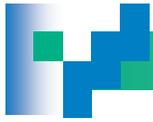
Process of evaluation

- Internal conversations

- External conversation with other SLAs

- A survey

- Fifteen regional meetings

Regional meetings

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

Meeting results

- Almost 150 librarians and trustees attended

- Feedback forms and notes analyzed

- Strong support for proposed change from regional to specialist form of consulting

- Hope for MSL to deliver more training and meetings in new regions

Response to concerns

- A new consultant - "Small, Rural library Specialist" Create 9 regions rather than three – to be able to hold meetings and customized CE and info gathering and sharing

- Create liaisons at the county level.

- Work to fund a school library specialist position

- Create a statewide advisory board, with representatives from the 9 new districts

Recommendations to the Maine Library Commission

- Create one statewide library district
- District will have 9 regions
- Each region has an MSL staff liaison
- Continue with 2 statewide council meetings yearly
- MSL will provide regional training in each region and encourage libraries to meet

MRLS – Reimagined and Reinvented

New Regions and Liaisons

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

MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

•15

Specialists that consult, model and train…

- Digital Literacy   Jared Leadbetter
- Annual report   Jenny Melvin
- Data/Evaluation   Stephanie Zurinski
- Strategic Plans   Deb Clark
- Rural/Small   Lisa Shaw
- STEM/Robots   Chris Dorman

Plus many more specialties…see the handout

MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
•16.
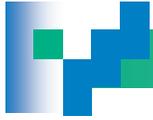
A new journey together

The Maine State Library's missions is to…

help people,

make Maine libraries* stronger

and transform information into knowledge.

* and librarians
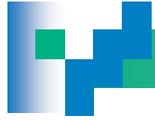
Thank you!

Questions and comments…