



Maine Regional Library System Standards

Public Library Impact Assessment

This assessment aligned the data collected through the FY25 Public Library Annual Report with the proposed standards, providing a statewide view of how libraries currently measure against them. With this data, we were able to identify approximately **38** unique libraries that are not currently meeting one or more standards. Among libraries with an LSA ranging from 30 to 8500, **12** do not meet two or more standards.

Section 5

(D3) It [the library] ensures the safety of its staff and the public by having two representatives of the library (employee or volunteers) on site when the library is open to the public.

	Number of Libraries	Notes
No paid staff 1 paid staff 2 paid staff 3 paid staff 4-9 paid staff 10+ paid staff	28 (3=self-service) 58 41 24 69 36 86 = Total with less than 2 staff (includes those with no paid staff)	86 libraries would need to find a second person to be in the library for all the hours the library is open. This may be significant for those libraries that are open a lot of hours. This group averages 16.5 open hours. Note: This number is probably much higher when you consider libraries that have more than one staff but rely on volunteers to staff some of the open hours. Additionally, some libraries cannot afford to pay both staff members to work all the hours the library is open and multiple staff may not mean more than one person works at a time.
Libraries with two or fewer paid staff report having no library volunteers	9	
Libraries with one or fewer staff where the director	52 = Total 3= self-service	This means they rely on a volunteer to work other open hours when the director is not

works fewer hours than the library is open. Example: Library is open 12 hours and director works 4 hours.		there, and they would need to find a second person to be in the library during open hours.
No staff	3=self-service	Louise Clements, Cutler Cole ML, Enfield Frenchboro PL 1= partial self-service Hope Library

(D4b) It receives annual funding from the municipality in which it is legally situated

	Number of Libraries	Notes
No municipal funding	5	Cliff, Harvey, Hope, Jackman, Witherle

(D4c) It [the library] has a dedicated person who serves as director of the library and is responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the library on behalf of the board of trustees (in the case of a non-profit library) or the municipality (if the library is a municipal department). This may be a volunteer position. This position may not be filled by an individual who also serves as a trustee on the governing board of the library.

	Number of Libraries	Notes
Self-service	3=self-service Louise Clements - Cutler Cole ML – Enfield Frenchboro PL 1= partial self-service Hope Library	No dedicated library director responsible for the day-to-day management This is a self-service model where the library is not staffed by volunteers or paid staff during the hours the library is open.
Library overseen by town office staff	4 Louise Clements, Cutler Harvey ML, Parkman G. Woolson ML, Newburgh Cole ML, Enfield	No dedicated library director responsible for the day-to-day management
Director is a board trustee	21	These represent board chairs serving as library directors however this number may be higher for those that are not an officer listed on the annual report.

(D5b) It does not charge members of its legal service area for membership

	Number of Libraries	Notes
Charges membership	1 – Monhegan Library	https://monheganlibrary.com/about/ FAQ Do I have to be a member to take out books? In order to take out books you will have to join the Library. Our current rates are \$20/individual, or \$30/family (two or more people).

(D5c) It is open to the public for at least 12 hours per week year-round. (The above subparagraph does not apply to a library located on an island with a legal service area of less than 300 year-round permanent residents).

Libraries open less than 52 weeks: 25

1.1 Library Name	1.8 Population of the Legal Service Area	1.22 Total Hours Open per Week Year-Round	1.24 Total Hours Open per Week During Summer	2.1 Total Weeks Open Per Year
CLIFF ISLAND LIBRARY	60	0.0	8.0	10
LAURA E. RICHARDS LIBRARY	1,101	0.0	12.0	25
MONHEGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY	62	-1	28.0	27
HOLLIS CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	7,185	20.0	20.0	48
GOODALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY	22,663	52.0	52.0	48
ROCKPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY	3,628	49.5	49.5	49
WALDO PEIRCE READING ROOM	1,248	14.0	14.0	49
WEST BUXTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	8,681	12.0	12.0	49
BINGHAM UNION LIBRARY	1,411	12.0	12.0	50
COOLIDGE LIBRARY	1,008	20.0	20.0	50
FORT KENT PUBLIC LIBRARY	4,151	25.0	25.0	50
HOPE LIBRARY	1,737	15.0	15.0	50
LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY	2,229	8.0	12.0	50
LOUISE CLEMENTS LIBRARY	533	21.0	21.0	50
MARTHA SAWYER COMMUNITY LIBRARY	6,801	20.0	20.0	50
PEMBROKE LIBRARY	778	15.0	18.0	50
SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	8,676	37.0	37.0	50
WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,314	20.0	20.0	50
BETHEL LIBRARY ASSN.	4,142	27.0	27.0	51
CHERRYFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,093	20.0	24.0	51
KATAHDIN PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,206	10.0	10.0	51
PARIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	5,409	51.0	51.0	51
PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	2,078	31.0	31.0	51
SKIDOMPHA PUBLIC LIBRARY	6,120	40.0	40.0	51
STEWART FREE LIBRARY	2,261	20.0	20.0	51

Libraries open less than 12 hours per week year-round: 22

1.1 Library Name	1.8 Population of the Legal Service Area	1.22 Total Hours Open per Week: Year-Round	1.24 Total Hours Open per Week During Summer: Select N/A if no change	2.1 Total Weeks Open Per Year
BOLSTERS MILLS VILLAGE LIBRARY	2,639	4.0	4.0	52
JACKMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	799	4.0	4.0	52
Gary W. Woolson Community Library	1,735	4.0	4.0	52
FAYE O'LEARY HAFFORD LIBRARY	234	6.0	6.0	52
FRENCHBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY	31	0.0	7.0	52
CLIFF ISLAND LIBRARY	60	0.0	8.0	10
REVERE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	84	4.0	8.0	52
BERRY MEMORIAL LIBRARY	8,681	8.0	8.0	52
MAYHEW LIBRARY ASSN	1,193	9.0	9.0	52
KATAHDIN PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,206	10.0	10.0	51
SHERMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,177	10.0	10.0	52
SOMESVILLE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	2,214	10.0	10.0	52
SOUTH CHINA PUBLIC LIBRARY	4,636	10.0	10.0	52
JOHN B. CURTIS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,247	7.0	11.0	52
SHAW LIBRARY (Mercer)	713	12.0	11.0	52
LAURA E. RICHARDS LIBRARY	1,101	0.0	12.0	25
LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY	2,229	8.0	12.0	50
LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY	235	11.0	13.0	52
FRIENDSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	1,159	8.0	14.0	52
NORTH HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	432	8.0	14.0	38
ISLESFORD LIBRARY	160	10.0	27.0	52
GREAT CRANBERRY LIBRARY	161	10.0	30.0	52

Island Library Exception

Rationale: Island libraries often operate under unique geographic and demographic conditions that make standard staffing and open-hour requirements difficult and impractical to achieve. Seasonal population fluctuations, housing and transportation limitations, small year-round populations, and limited municipal resources can all impact the library's ability to maintain traditional service models.

Island libraries serving a year-round population of more than 300 generally have greater access to municipal funding and a larger pool of potential staff, allowing them to offer more robust services and maintain more consistent operations than smaller island libraries.

Seasonal Island libraries

	LSA	Weeks Open per Year	Paid Staff	MSLN
Cliff Island Library	65	10	Yes	Yes

Frenchboro PL	30	28	No	Yes
Monhegan Library	64	27	Yes	Yes

Island libraries open year-round and less than 12 hours

Three year-round island libraries would qualify under the same exemption rule. They serve populations less than 300, are open year-round, and fewer than 12 hours.

	LSA	Year-Round Hours	Summer Hours	Paid Staff	MSLN
Great Cranberry Library	161	10	30	Yes	Yes
Islesford Library	196	10	27	Yes	Yes
Revere ML	84	4	8	Yes	Yes
Somesville Library (MDI) **LSA >300 = do not qualify	2214	10	10	Yes	Yes

(D5e) It has a dedicated phone and email address

	Number of Libraries	Notes
No email	2 Bolsters Mills and Frenchboro	3 libraries list the town clerk email Cole, Harvey, and Gary Woolson
No phone	2 Cliff Island and Frenchboro	A handful of libraries list personal cell phones or do not have a dedicated phone in the library and rely on the town office phone.

Paid Director to Manage Library Operations

The table below compares library service measures for libraries without a paid director alongside libraries serving the state's smallest populations of communities with fewer than 1,000 residents. Viewing the data together provides important context for understanding the relationship between staffing capacity, municipal support, and service levels.

The comparison helps illustrate that while very small libraries may operate with limited resources, many are still able to provide a measurable level of public library service when they receive consistent local funding and organizational support. In contrast, libraries without a paid director tend to demonstrate more limited-service capacity across multiple service measures, reflecting the operational challenges associated with relying entirely on volunteer management or limited staffing structures.

By including both groups in the table, the data demonstrates that population size alone does not necessarily determine service levels. Instead, factors such as stable municipal investment, staffing support, and organizational capacity play a significant role in what services a library can provide to its community.

Library Funding and Service Measures: No Paid Staff and Populations Under 1,000

28 libraries operate without paid staff or use a self-service model.

	Average for Libraries with no paid staff	Average for Libraries Serving Populations under 1,000 (34 libraries, including 8 with no paid staff)
Legal Service Area	1,985	559
Hours Open	13.7	17.5
Paid Staff	0 FTE	0.73 FTE
Total Unique Volunteers	10	13
Total Volunteer Hours per Week	18.6	7.5
Financials		
Local Revenue	\$3,405	\$20,672
Total Revenue	\$11,553	\$46,571
Staff Expenditures	\$0	\$27,903
Collection Expenditures	\$1,820	\$3,348
Total Operating Expenditures	\$9,148	\$42,968
Services		
Library Visits	1,514	2,903
Circulation	1,911	2,788
Information Assistance	66	252
Programs	47	59
Program Attendance	454	569
ILL	36	67
Computer Uses	130	210
Wifi Uses	776	1,490
Meeting Space Uses	33	29
Cardholders	401	824

National Snapshot: Services State Libraries Provide to Public Libraries

Source: IMLS, State Library Administrative Agency Survey, FY 2022

Most states have state public library standards or minimum requirements that libraries must meet to qualify for state aid, receive services supported through Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA funding, or participate in programs and resources funded through those services. In many states, compliance with standards is directly tied to

eligibility for state funding or program grants, while in others it is connected to access to statewide services, consulting, technology support, resource sharing, or other initiatives supported by LSTA funds.

- 44 states have State Standards/Guidelines
- 41 states provide LSTA State Program Grants to public libraries
- 40 states provide administrative state aid
- 15 states provide library accreditation
- 23 states provide librarian certification

Services to Libraries and Library Cooperatives

- Consulting
- Continuing education
- Interlibrary loan
- Reference
- Cooperative purchasing of library materials
- Statewide coordinated digital program
- Universal Service Program (E-Rate)
- Statewide reading programs
- Statewide resource sharing
- Preservation and digitization
- Administration of library system support
- Acquisition and management of other state and federal program funds