

STATE OF MAINE

Memorandum

To: Sen. Bill Diamond, Senate Chair; Rep Emily Ann Cain, House Chair,
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Linda H. Lord, Acting State Librarian

Subject: The Initiative to Streamline State Government – Priority Programs

Background:

- During economic slumps library services, Internet connections, and resources become more important than ever for citizens. For example, the patron count at the Maine State Library (MSL) for calendar year 2007 was 67,160. The patron count for calendar year 2008 was 75,572. We anticipate that this increasing usage will continue. Maine public libraries saw the following increases: their total patron count in 2007 was 730,053 which increased to 743,716 in 2008.
- From January through August 2009 the MSL web page had 1,060,685 hits. It contains more than 1000 pages of up-to-date information.
- The Maine State Library serves as the interlibrary loan hub for central Maine libraries and also provides reference backup for these libraries. In serving as an Area Reference and Resource Center (ARRC) for Central Maine, the State Library serves the same function as Bangor Public Library for Northern Maine and Portland Public Library for Southern Maine.
- Since only 27% of Maine public libraries have directors with library degrees, support from the Maine State Library is critical.
- Maine is one of 8 states that does not provide direct state aid to public libraries. What the State does provide to its libraries are the state-wide programs made possible by MSL (electronic databases, talking books, interlibrary loan, and large print books), in addition to the services listed below. It is critically important to Maine libraries that these services be continued.

The following bulleted sections of the Maine State Library (MSL) are supported by State General Fund Appropriations. These components are intertwined in that they rely upon and support one another. A State Maintenance of Effort in Maine State Library programs is required to receive the federal funding which supports other Maine State Library services, e.g. Books by Mail, talking books for the visually impaired, large print books, database purchases, and continuing education opportunities.

- 0215 Administration :
This basically funds the State Librarian position as well as central Service Center (business functions and human resources) and Office of Information Technology costs.

- 0217 Library & Development Services

These services encompass two major areas of MSL: (1) Library Development which provides for the development of all types of libraries throughout the state. Specific programs include: the Maine Regional Library System (consultant services, continuing education opportunities, interlibrary loan, and federal funding for libraries), school library/ media services, E-rate application preparation for libraries that belong to the Maine School and Library Network, and electronic database licensing, and (2) the Reader and Information Services Division which provides for the delivery of information, reference and interlibrary loan services to public libraries, state agency personnel and the general public. This includes supporting and complementing the collections of public, college, and university libraries throughout the state. Specific programs include: reference and research, circulation, government documents, collection services, and interlibrary loan.

- 0185 Statewide Library Info System (Maine InfoNet)

Maine InfoNet is a 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 numerous library services of statewide importance. These services include MaineCat, a statewide library catalog and interlibrary loan platform that contains the holdings of over 100 school, academic, public and special libraries statewide. MaineCat forms the online backbone of a statewide book and resource sharing system designed to maximize state and local investments in library materials. Maine InfoNet also directly manages the online consortia library catalog system Minerva that links 64 public, school, community college, academic and hospital libraries across the state in a shared system providing Maine communities unparalleled access to library materials. Maine InfoNet also manages and supports access to the MARVEL! databases which efficiently provides online access to research databases for every citizen in the state. All of the Maine InfoNet services are designed to stretch state and local investments in library materials and services and to provide direct access to research, educational, business and recreational materials across the state.

- 0260 Special Acquisitions Fund

This allocation of \$475 in FY10 is a carrying account with available cash of \$6,285.15 and is for the purchase of town histories. Receiving this money is not a priority.