The New Maine Regional Library System

What’s changing…and what’s remaining the same

October 1973…
The Maine Regional Library System

Three districts…
Three consultants…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th># Public Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMLD</td>
<td>403,545</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMLD</td>
<td>434,637</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMLD</td>
<td>491,146</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The future of the MRLS was discussed in 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?*
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.
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  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 minimum 100 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*
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Region #</th>
<th>Liaison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deb Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deb Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANKLIN</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be hired - Librarian III #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXFORD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be hired - Librarian III #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDROSCOGGIN</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stephanie Zuninski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENNEBEC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stephanie Zuninski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAGADAHOC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stephanie Zuninski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOX</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>To be hired Librarian III #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINCOLN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>To be hired Librarian III #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PISCATAQUIS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chris Dorman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMERSET</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chris Dorman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENOBSCOOT</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jenny Melvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALDO</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jenny Melvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANCOCK</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jared Leadbetter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lisa Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AROOSTOOK</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lisa Shaw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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…