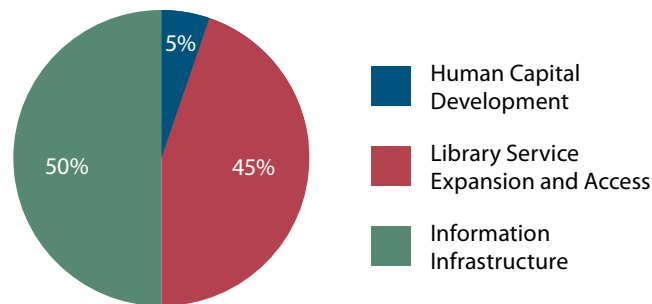


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: MAINE



Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006



This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Maine State Library
Agency governance	An independent agency reporting to a commission
Population served in 2006	1,313,355
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$5,294,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$4,294,276
Chief Officer	Linda Lord, State Librarian
Web site	www.maine.gov/msl

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, J. Gary Nichols*

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“Expanded access has been the greatest impact. Maine has gotten away from individual grants and has gone in the direction of networking and statewide grants. LSTA has helped us provide equity of access, to offer service to a rural environment, especially to those without libraries; for example, Books by Mail reaches way out there. LSTA has extended access with cooperative interlibrary loans, affordable databases, consulting, collaboration, extensions to academic libraries, and digitization. Academic, special, school, and public libraries participate to reach all citizens. With technology we have the Maine InfoNet, MARVEL databases, and Minerva.”

Delivery of Library Services:

“We have had regionals for 35 years and have total participation of all types of libraries. There are more than 900 school and public libraries. We get input from all types of

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Maine	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	\$925,456	\$1,063,783	\$1,123,275	\$1,181,762	\$4,294,276
Number of projects reported	7	7	8	9	31
Largest project amount	\$460,953	\$641,735	\$621,227	\$692,703	
Median project amount	\$105,798	\$82,519	\$70,229	\$36,957	

libraries; the Library Commission includes representatives from all types.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. Sustaining affordable technology: 90 percent of our public libraries serve populations under 10,000. They don’t have the wealth of a population base for sustaining technology, especially not to expand bandwidth. There isn’t lots of competition, so it’s expensive.
2. Training: many libraries are run by volunteers; we must work with trustees to be sure libraries are connected and well run.
3. Funding is a core issue, especially local support. Schools are legislatively mandated, but public libraries are not. We need to look at that; too many libraries are left to their own devices.

* Gary Nichols was the Chief Officer at the time that the interviews were conducted.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- To expand library resource sharing and services for all Maine citizens by partnering with public and private entities.
- To improve library services to individuals with disabilities and for Maine citizens, including children, living in underserved areas.

Exemplary Project: Maine State Library

Project title	Van Delivery Service
Library	Maine State Library (MSL)
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$2,687
Total Cost FY06	\$5,876
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

The Maine State Library Reader and Information Services division administers the network for an outsourced delivery service system for a group of 122 college, public, school, and special libraries. The MSL 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 and special—are eligible to participate in this voluntary service. The Maine State Library belongs to the van delivery system. This following is a comment from a patron: “I mainly use MSL for interlibrary loans, and that has been fantastic—very fast and courteous.” When librarians were asked to prioritize the value of LSTA-sponsored programs, the van delivery system ranked second after online databases. From patrons: “I used to have to wait weeks to get books and now they’re here in two or three days!”