Maine Shared Collections Strategy: Why now in Maine?

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Shared Print Monographs: Making it Work

Maine Shared Collections Strategy: Why Now in Maine?

Clem Guthro, Director of Libraries, Colby College
The Library Context in Maine

- Academic Libraries
  - University of Maine, University of Southern Maine, and 5 small campuses
  - Colby, Bates and Bowdoin
  - University of New England
  - 7 Community Colleges
  - Small private colleges (Unity, Thomas, St. Josephs, College of the Atlantic, Maine Maritime Academy, Maine College of Art, Husson, Beal, Kaplan)
The Library Context in Maine

- Public Libraries
  - 265 public libraries
  - 2 flagship publics – Bangor and Portland
  - 150 with collections smaller than 20,000 vols

- Maine State Library

- Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library

- Special Libraries
  - 23 hospital libraries
  - 2 Independent Labs (Jackson and Bigelow)
The Library Context in Maine

- **Maine InfoNet**
  - MaineCat – Statewide catalog
  - Marvel – Statewide databases
  - MACON – statewide database of archival collections

- **Larger Libraries**
  - 9 largest libraries in Maine
  - Directors meet twice a year

- **CBB (Colby, Bates, Bowdoin)**
  - Cooperative Collection Development
  - Common Loan periods
  - 6 day a week delivery

- State-wide delivery −1.25 million items/year
IMLS Grant background

- Originated with the Larger Libraries Group
- Long tradition of collaboration and trust
- Most libraries were running out of space and unlikely to get additional space
- The collections of the Larger Libraries Group represent \( \frac{3}{4} \) of the print collections in Maine
- Wanted a shared approach to managing legacy print collections for the long term
- Looking to be leaders in the print collection space
IMLS Grant Partners

- Colby College
- Bates College
- Bowdoin College
- University of Maine
- University of Southern Maine
- Maine State Library
- Bangor Public Library
- Portland Public Library
- Maine InfoNet
IMLS Grant – The original

- $827,000 three year grant to create a shared print collections strategy
- Create a collection analysis system to analyze the collections
- Examine the presence of large scale digital collections (Hathi Trust and Internet Archive) as a determiner of what to keep in print
- Integrate Print on Demand for large scale digital collections where local print copies are unavailable
- Integrate Electronic on Demand for large scale digital collections
Grant focus

- Focus is monographs and journals (Government docs are excluded)
- The goal is to determine which volumes should be retained long term and by whom
- Libraries may discard materials or not once retention decisions are made (downsizing is not the predominant focus)
- Provide a framework for other libraries to participate once the initial grant period is complete
- Expose our retention decisions to the world
Collaboration is a norm in Maine
Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin are consciously building a shared collection of new print materials and e-resources. Faculty expect this.
The emphasis is on print retention and not on weeding. Our message to our community is that we are preserving the print heritage in Maine.
Robust physical delivery helps with the message.
The Nitty Gritty Work

- OCLC reclamation
  - All participating libraries did an OCLC reclamation to ensure that their holdings were accurate.

- OCLC Collection Analysis or Not

- Retention decisions
  - The recommended retention commitment is 15 years with a reexamination of that commitment every 5 years.

- Metadata
  - MARC 583 – Action Note is being explored as an option for encoding retention decisions.
A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted to guide the ongoing work.

An Executive Committee formed from the Maine InfoNet Board will provide governance.

A Collections and Operations committee will determine retention, holdings disclosure, and access/delivery.

Membership fee set by Executive Committee

Collection Holders

Collection Builders

Supporting Members