2008-162

Annual Report on the Activities and Recommendations of the Maine Department of Education and The Maine State Library Regarding MSLN2

Report to the Public Utilities Commission

March 31, 2008

Submitted by the Maine State Library and the Maine Department of Education with the assistance of the MSLN2 Project Manager, Scott Thibeau

Executive Summary

The education and library communities have been information infrastructure pioneers. Their use of networking to create new channels for scholarly communications and collaboration is pointing the way to broader and deeper participation in the process of learning by individuals at all levels of society. The Internet has been the vehicle for most of the networking exploration by schools and libraries; however, to date, that exploration is just the beginning to what is possible.

The experiences of the schools and libraries on MSLN2 illustrate some of the tensions among what different groups or communities need, want, and can afford. These tensions will be replicated or expanded as the schools and libraries not only in Maine but across the nation move to a national information infrastructure.

These tensions also illustrate that the value of the Internet - whether measured in terms of program effectiveness, productivity gains, or return on investments – is constantly increasing. This increase depends on the size and diversity of its user population, the power and sophistication of its applications, and the capability of the infrastructure.

To quote the Lt. Governor of North Carolina, Bev Perdue, Chairperson, Business Education Technology Alliance, "Technology is the 21st century chalk and blackboard. It is critical to leverage our strengths and resources to provide state-of-the art technology to all of our schools".

To quote American Library Association technology consultant Carrie Lowe, "Networks are the core infrastructure that enables public access to information. At physical libraries, networks provide access to information resources within a library building, a library system and around the world.

For Maine citizens who can not access or afford broadband connectivity from their homes, the local public library fills and essential need in accessing information and government online services.

This report describes Maine School & Library Network (MSLN2) activities from July 2007 through June 2008; outlines the MSLN2 plans for 2008; and makes recommendations for the MSLN2's long-term initiatives. Highlights from this report include:

- In current funding year 2007, the MSLN2 is providing services to approximately 713 sites (89% of eligible sites) for transport service totaling 833 T1's and 994 sites receiving Internet access. This number will increase to 853 T1's for funding year 2008

- Federal E-rate coming into the State of Maine for MSLN2 services is approximately $2,989,756.30. A Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in 3 years of 11 percent.

- Recognized Federal E-rate MSLN2 discount percentages have increased from 57.5% starting in funding year 2001 to 66% in current funding year 2007. This result is the direct correlation of the contracted Federal E-rate consultant working with State E-rate personnel.

- E-rate discount percentages have increased from 62% (FY 2004) to 67% (FY 2008) as a direct result of the contracted Federal E-rate consultant working with State E-rate personnel. If the respective 5% increase in this year's services are calculated, MSLN2 will be receiving $238,425.58 more than we would have for these same services (assuming the same costs) in 2004. Alternative Education sites and Vocational and Technical Schools that do not participate in National School Lunch Program (NSLP) on which federal E-rate discounts are based have been encouraged and shown how to use alternative discount tools.

2007 MSLN2 Activities

- Coordinated the installation of increased bandwidth for sites whose current and projected usage demonstrates that need.

- Facilitated meetings with technology coordinators to better understand bandwidth needs to support the use of technology within their schools and libraries as it relates to the MSLN2

- Surveyed technology needs of schools and libraries to inform the development of an RFP for expanded capacity to meet the needs of schools and libraries.

- Developed criteria for delivering expanded bandwidth to schools and libraries requiring additional bandwidth.

- Development of Circuit Rider contract for funding year 2007 along with monthly reports on activities.

- Implemented CRM Database to house all communications between Circuit Rider program and schools and libraries.

- Reconciled with the Maine Public Utility Commission budget for funding year 2006 and projected budgets for funding years 2007 and 2008.

- Authorize payment of vendor and circuit rider invoices.

- Collaborating with Executive Director of the ConnectME Authority on state-wide

initiatives that could impact both the MSLN2 and the State of Maine on broadband initiatives

INTRODUCTION

Title 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B(4) requires that MTEAF funds be used to provide discounts to qualified schools and libraries for the following: telecommunications services; internet access; internal connections; computers; training; and content. Chapter 285 § 6(B) of our Rules requires the MTEAF Advisory Board to recommend to the Public Utilities Commission annually the services that should be funded for the upcoming year, the funding level, and the overall amount to be assessed by carriers.

The report is divided into eight sections:

I. Background;
II. State of the MSLN2 Network;
III. Recommendations for funding year 2008-2009;
IV. Asynchronous Transfer Mode;
V. Administration;
VI. Libraries Choosing Not to Filter;
VII. Long Term Recommendations;
VIII. Conclusion:

I. BACKGROUND

In June 1999, the Governor signed into law new legislation (effective September 18, 1999) directing the Commission to establish a Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund (MTEAF) for the following purposes:

1. To ensure a basic level of connection for all qualified schools and libraries;

2. To ensure all qualified schools and qualified libraries the capability of using the advanced technology equipment obtained through the fund;

3. To ensure that more technologically sophisticated equipment is available to students in grades 9 to 12 and in larger qualified libraries in the State;

4. To provide for necessary equipment to use the services obtained through the fund;

5. To provide for internal connections necessary to use the services obtained through the fund;

6. To provide training to teachers so that they may assist and educate their students in the use of the advanced technology equipment;

7. To provide for the establishment of computer technology training programs in schools to provide training to students in areas such as, but not limited to, electronic commerce, Internet proficiency and World Wide Web-enabled systems which was amended in 2000 to add research and development electronic content.

II. STATE OF THE MSLN2 NETWORK

The MSLN2 network has evolved from providing 56 Kbps as basic connectivity to all qualified schools and libraries in Maine to a broadband network that qualified schools and libraries increasingly depend on today for instructional purposes and citizen access to information. With approximately 89% eligible school and library participation, the MSLN2 has grown to become the choice for Internet connectivity for our Maine schools and libraries. The demand for broadband connectivity is exploding.

In 1999 when legislation was passed to allow for basic connectivity to all qualified schools and libraries, very few schools and libraries had more than a handful of computers and not all of these were connected to the Internet.

Today the demand for Internet bandwidth is exploding because of, but not limited to: the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI); online educational curriculum like Apex Learning, and Moodle; the requirement of No Child Left Behind to electronically update student information records in real time; the demand for online research and development data; increased online government services for citizens; and increased digital content.

Many schools and libraries have multiple end points connecting to their networks, whether it be laptops, mobile devices like Blackberry's, Servers, Video Conferencing Equipment or IP Telephony PBX's. With streaming video and audio tools to educate for new 21st century skills, the explosion in World Wide Web use has caused a dramatic increase in bandwidth needs for schools and libraries on MSLN2.

Phone surveys with many schools and libraries across the State of Maine have shown that most would not be able function today without the MSLN2. Most are very thankful for the support and assistance MSLN2 has given them over the years. And most continue to stay connected because quite simply put, they could not afford connectivity on their own.

How has MSLN2 leveraged funding?

1. By negotiating a postal rate for MSLN2 connectivity on behalf of more than 900 schools and libraries;
2. By increased funding from the federal E-rate program because of site training, and the support of an expert E-rate consultant;
3. By the support of critical MTEAF funds at .07%.

4. By the work of one representative from the Maine State Library in providing and obtaining the training and acquiring the data necessary for a successful federal E-rate application

The future of the MSLN2 faces extremely critical challenges. As the demand for Internet bandwidth explodes, MSLN2 is continually pressured by schools and libraries asking for more bandwidth to meet their education and information access goals.

As MSLN2 goes forward and the current contracts begin to expire, MSLN2 must reconfigure its network by providing increased capacity to the qualified schools and libraries. Deploying a technology medium capable of keeping up with needs is becoming paramount. Deploying increased broadband is essential and MSLN2 can and must achieve this goal for our leaders of tomorrow and our citizens of today.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING YEAR 2008-2009

A. Basic Program Elements

We ask continued funding for connectivity and Internet service at no cost to all qualified schools and libraries pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B(1) (referred to as MSLN2). We will also ask that the Commission continue to provide funding for ATM sites, Circuit Rider, content databases, and administrative costs, as further described below.

We ask funding to connect adult education sites that offer high school diploma completion course and that are not located in public school buildings. Out of 102 adult education programs, 24 fit these criteria. All funding would have to come from MTEAF for the 2008-2009 year since it is too late to apply for federal E-rate for this time period. E-rate funds will be sought in 2009-2010. The cost to MTEAF for 2008-2009 funding year will be $188,505.36.

B. Assessments by Carriers

Title 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B(3)(A) requires the Commission to annually establish an amount of up to 0.7% of retail charges, to be collected by intrastate carriers for the MTEAF. Chapter 285 § 2(B) requires the Commission, in establishing the amount to be collected, to consider the needs of schools and libraries, the amount collected in the previous year and the impact on ratepayers, particularly when integrated with any State Universal Service Fund. The MSLN2 requests the assessment continue at the 0.7% level. A cut in the assessment would negatively effect how MSLN2 will continue to fund the needs of schools and libraries and the need to develop a more comprehensive broadband network.

C. Innovative and Technologically Advanced Program

Title 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B(5) requires that "[a] minimum of 25% of each annual program budget must be devoted to targeted projects that are innovative and

technologically advanced." The MTEAF fund previously met this requirement by funding ATM, DSL. Our funding for ATM connections for schools and libraries continues to support an innovative and technologically advanced service, but falls short of the 25% target. MSLN2 as described above is in the process of embarking on the ability to provide broader band connectivity to many of our school districts and some of our larger libraries by July 1, 2010. MSLN2 feels that this initiative would meet the innovative and technological advanced program requirements as many MSLN2 sites have suggested they would prefer to have additional Internet bandwidth suitable to meet their educational goals.

D. Circuit Riders

The MSLN2 currently supports the "circuit rider" program which provides support by phone, e-mail, and onsite visits to assist schools and libraries that do not have on site technical support. The program has continued to be extremely effective, with positive and appreciative support from many of our small schools and libraries. Without this program many smaller schools and libraries would be without the ability to effectively use technology. The MSLN2 proposes continuation at the current cost of $159,960 annually which includes a 20% contingency for miscellaneous expenses like additional support, travel, tools and an increase of 3% to the circuit rider salary for current living adjustments.

E. Content Databases

As we have done in the past, we ask for $500,000 in 2008 – 2009 to allow the purchase of electronic databases for citizens statewide, as permitted by 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B. (Please see attached report.)

F: Alternative Equivalent Value

Re-introduce Alternative Equivalent Value (AEV) as a means to provide school districts and libraries with alternative connections to MSLN2 ISP Services like DSL, wireless, fiber and cable modem access where appropriate and if funding is available. AEV would allow the MSLN2 to allow MSLN2 sites that otherwise would have been eligible for their own T-1 to receive MTEAF funds in the amount for which they would otherwise be eligible.

IV. ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER MODE (ATM)

Approximately 91 high schools have ATM connections for voice, data (instead of a T-1 line) and video. These sites pay $2,075 per month for this service and each site applies for Federal E-rate (with discounts ranging from 20% to 90%). Because the sites use their ATM in lieu of a T-1, we have provided financial support from the MTEAF to cover some costs not paid for by Federal E-rate. The Commission chose $358 per month as an estimate of half the amount remaining after applying the average school E-rate

discount, which for these high schools is 66%. Therefore, $358 continues to represent approximately half the amount owed after E-rate is applied.

Beginning in 2001, the Commission also agreed to provide financial support for elementary and middle schools that are networked to an ATM site that they can share the connection. These are sites that otherwise would have been eligible for their own T-1. MSLN2 recommends that these shared sites continue to receive MTEAF funds in the amount for which they would otherwise be eligible, up to an amount not to exceed the monthly cost of the ATM connection where all the sites' credits are counted together.

The total cost for ATM support in 2008-2009 is expected to be $470,000. MSLN2 request that the Commission continue to support ATM transport at $358 per site per month as long as MSLN2 remains data transport for 91 high schools and 2 libraries.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. Fund Administrator

The MSLN2 ask that the Commission authorize the expenditure of approximately $30,000 to pay for a fund administrator to assess carriers, collect funds from carriers and make payments from the Fund (as permitted by 35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 7104-B(2) and 7104(3)). (An RFP for this service has been issued recently.)

B. E-rate Consultant

We also ask for the expenditure of funds to continue paying for a consultant to help with the Federal E-rate application process. This extra assistance has been instrumental in MSLN2 receiving Federal E-rate on a timelier basis with fewer sites being eliminated from the application due to errors.

Because of this service the MSLN2 has received in overall percentage increase of Federal E-rate funds from 57.5% to 66%. Using today's dollars based upon cost of circuits and ISP services that is a gain of $429,535.51 which comes into the State of Maine for the MSLN2 network for Federal E-rate money that our Federal E-RATE consultant helps us collect.

Based upon these two facts, we respectfully request that the Commission continue to support funding for the Federal E-rate consultant at the amount of $233,000.00 in funding year 2008-2009.

Current funding approved is $233,000 a year to support the complexities of the MSLN2 E-rate application and rules governing Federal E-rate disbursement resulting in the enacted school administrative restructuring which is just beginning.

C. MSLN2 Project Administration

On November 1, 2006, the Commission approved a request of Advisory Board that one of the then three circuit rider positions be eliminated and the savings be used to fund a project manager for the Maine School and Library Network. The manager reports directly to the Director of the Maine State Library and the Commissioner of Education.

A manager was hired beginning April 1, 2007 and since then, has provided day to day management of MSLN2, including over site of schools and libraries regarding the use of MSLN2 Internet bandwidth, E-rate requirements and billing issues. The project manager also consults with many schools and library personnel on their technology initiatives and how they are deploying technology. This information is paramount to the future of MSLN2 as it defines the ability to provide greater more effective Internet bandwidth for schools and libraries.

MSLN2 request that the Commission continue to approve funding of $79,800 for this position for funding year 2008-2009.

VI. LIBRARIES CHOOSING NOT TO FILTER

In 2004, the Legislature amended 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-B(6) to allow public libraries to decline Federal E-rate for internet service if they determine that applying for Federal E-rate (e.g., complying with Federal E-rate's filtering requirements) would substantially compromise the library's standards or mission. The statute allows the Commission to mitigate the loss of Federal E-rate funds using the MTEAF.

Since the 2004-2005 program year, the Commission has allowed non-filtering libraries to contribute $25 per month toward the cost of Internet service with MTEAF paying the remainder of the amount that would typically be paid for by Federal E-rate. Under the current ISP contract, internet service costs $105 per month. Assuming Federal E-rate will pay 66%, MTEAF should provide a $35.70 per month additional subsidy to these non-filtering libraries. Currently, 53 libraries have chosen not to filter. Therefore, this additional subsidy will cost MTEAF $22,706 annually which is a net decrease to the overall fund of $3,465.00 from prior year. We ask that the Commission continue to fund this initiative

VII. LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Meet the capacity needs required by technology use in K-12 school districts and libraries with appropriate Internet bandwidth supported by Federal E-rate and MTEAF funds.

2. Continue to assess 0.7% of retail charges for telecommunications services which funds MTEAF. These funds are vital as the MSLN2 reconfigures the network to continue to meet Internet bandwidth needs for schools & libraries

3. Recognize that the definition of "Basic" Internet access established in the PUC Order of May 1995 has changed over the past 13 years. The connectivity needs of schools and libraries has become more dependent on the Internet and increased connectivity.

4. Define Internet Bandwidth usage policy for schools and libraries.

5. Starting in e-rate funding year 2009 - 2010, assume the cost to connect MSLN2 Internet service provider to MSLN2 Transport provider. By doing this, additional Federal E-rate money can be recognized for the State of Maine for MSLN2 services.

VIII. CONCLUSION

MSLN2 recommends that the Commission approve for funding year 2008-2009:

1. Basic program elements including the addition of adult education sites as described above;

2. Continued assessment of carriers at .07% or retail charges;

3. Circuit Rider as described above;

4. Content databases as described above;

5. Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) as described above;

6. Administration as described above including;

   a. Fund administrator
   b. Federal E-rate consultant
   c. MSLN2 Project Manager

7. Libraries choosing not to filter

MSLN2 is one of the most appreciated services to Maine schools and public libraries. Nearly all educational and informational technology services ride on its backbone. We appreciate your careful consideration of our recommendations.

MARVEL!
Maine's Virtual Library

MARVEL!
Electronic Information for all Maine Citizens

A globally competitive educational system requires access to the world's scholarship, research and information. Marvel! is a component of Maine InfoNet's Shared Digital Library program which brings Mainers the best library resources to advance teaching, learning, business and research. MARVEL! provides online access to electronic databases for education and research, including journal article citations, full text articles, electronic journals, datasets and multimedia products. MARVEL! delivers an essential service that makes a difference for education, research, business and Maine's future.

The program to license statewide databases began in 2000. Since 2002 support from the Maine Telecommunications Educational Access Fund (MTEAF) has enhanced available resources, and made possible expanded access to electronic, full text databases for all Maine citizens. MARVEL is a source that they have relied on over the past six years.

This year's MARVEL! databases have been carefully selected to provide types of resources that will meet information needs encountered in all types of libraries. The current list of MARVEL! databases provides access to the full text of articles in over 29,000 journals and magazines, as well as full text science and general encyclopedias, literary reference and criticism on books and authors, indexes and full text in business and scientific literature [in areas such as business, tourism, aquatic sciences and fisheries, food science, forestry, geology, economics, and the environment], and other information services such as statistical reports, company financial and investment reports, and business directories. Also available are over 500 U.S. and international newspapers, including the *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, Times of London, Bangor Daily News* and the *Portland Press Herald.* K-12 resources include age-appropriate full-text magazine articles, encyclopedias, and student research aids.

Benefits of MARVEL!

- **Enhances learning by providing equal access to high quality electronic resources to educators, students, researchers and Maine's business community**
- **Saves money through the economies of cooperation, extending access to expensive research and development data.**
- **Connects the vital content piece which is essential for the education of all Maine citizens and Maine's economic development.**
- **Takes advantage of the rich array of technological tools with which to achieve statewide efficiencies and cost-effective services.**

MARVEL! represents one of the single most important technological developments in Maine over the past decade. While the statewide network was the great equalizer for the geographic barriers of Maine, it is equity of access to sophisticated and expensive electronic information that is Maine's major accomplishment since 2000 when the first resources were made available statewide.

The Maine State Library in partnership with the University of Maine System Libraries led the collaboration of libraries of all types-- public, academic and K-12 schools to create a statewide network of information resources. Every day

across the State, MARVEL! provides every public library, business, school, college and university the basic resources of a strong library. MARVEL! delivers the essential presence of a great library to anyone in the state with Internet access at any time from any location, and ensures that students, faculty --- all Mainers --- have the information needed to be informed global citizens.

Only with funding support from the MTEAF and the combined resources of the statewide partnership, is it possible for MARVEL! to provide access to electronic, full text databases essential for educational success, and research and business competitiveness. Whether you are the St. Agatha Public Library or the Portland Public Library, Northern Maine Community College or Bates College, Jackson Laboratory or the Eastern Maine Development Corporation, SAD 63 or Gouldsboro High School, or a curious citizen the same MARVEL! databases are available to you.

MARVEL! improves the ability of students, teachers, scholars, individuals from all walks of life to find needed resources.

We can point with pride to the increasing number of MARVEL! users. The number of individuals logging into the databases is 208% greater this year than in the year 2000. This growth has reduced the cost per user to $.83 for each citizen of Maine. The number of searches conducted by these users increased 108% during the same time period. MARVEL! makes research easier and exciting, saving users time and rewarding them with an efficient and successful experience finding needed information.

MARVEL! has become an indispensable research tool for education. A loss of access to this statewide database would impact Maine's colleges and universities ability to attract prospective students, and influences the state's ability to attract and retain professionals in all fields.

Eight Years Growing Success
208 % increase in logons
243,026 in 2000 to 747,982 in 2007
108% in database searches
1.5 million (2000) to 2.9 million (2007)

MARVEL! advances the research enterprise across the State.

The cornerstone for successful research is access to the research literature: great research universities always require great libraries to advance their work. Through MARVEL! every library in Maine has access to a great library of essential research literature on business, tourism, aquatic sciences and fisheries, food science, forestry, geology, economics, and the environment. Researchers, whether in higher education or business, can count on MARVEL! for critical research and scholarly literature they need.

MARVEL! is essential to improving business competitiveness and integral to the long-term health of the Maine economy.

With the Maine School and Library Network, Maine became a leader in providing telecommunications infrastructure critical to its rural environment. Particularly because of its rural areas, Maine is competitive in land, labor and building costs. Besides location, business investment decisions are also based on quantity and quality of public services, among them schools, higher education and health services. Without question, the quality of schools and higher education in Maine would suffer significantly without our ability to sustain the MARVEL! database program. Through MARVEL! an equitable core of information sources is available to every Maine citizen, raising the level of excellence in schools and communities across the state.

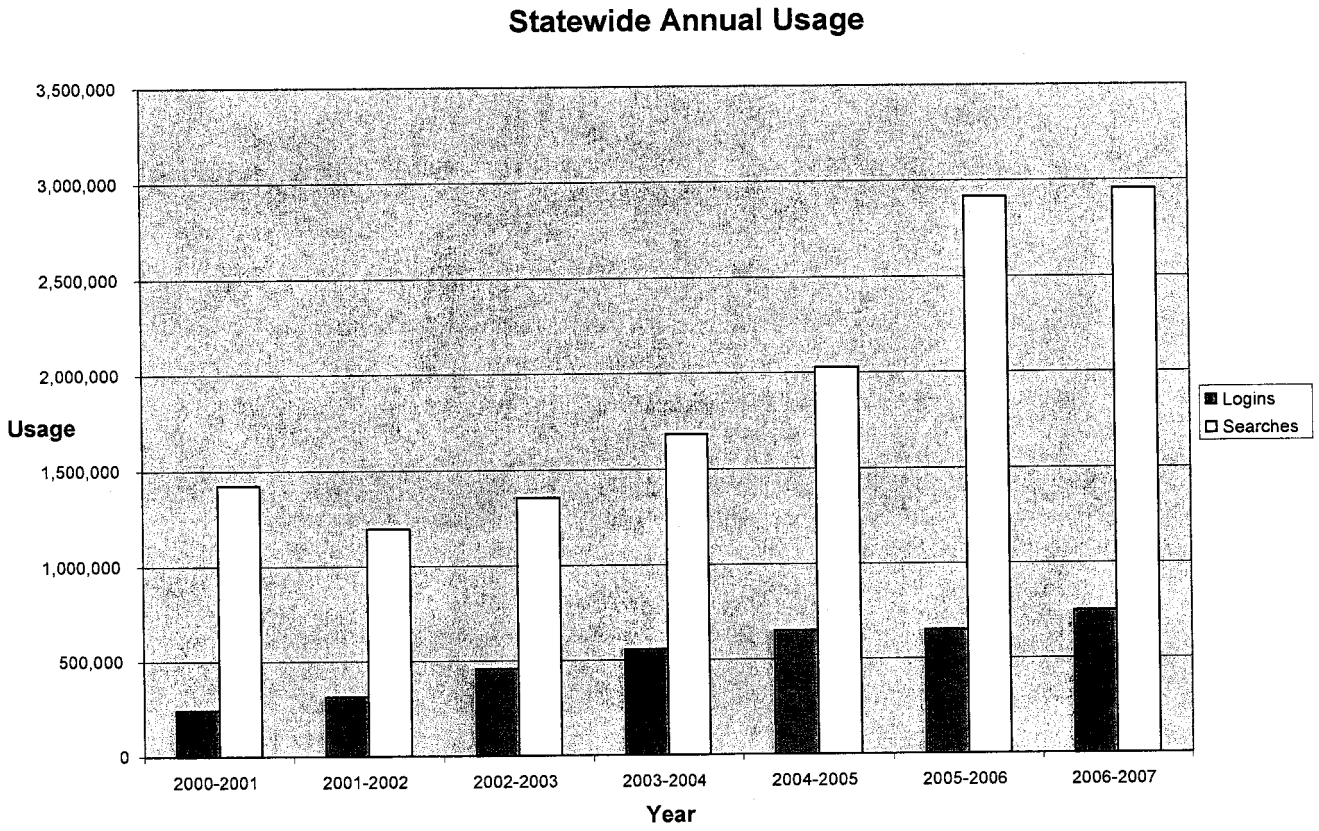
MARVEL! is the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars: the economics of cooperation.

The Maine Info Net MARVEL! program has continually demonstrated that by working together and purchasing resources cooperatively, Maine's libraries increased their buying power many times over, and now provide access to more resources than could have been imagined in 2000. If every Library needed to buy these resources individually, many fewer people would have access to many fewer resources. Combining Library and MTEAF funds into a statewide action

has proven to be the only economically affordable and sustainable way to provide access to the information resources necessary for world-class teaching, learning and research.

By working together through MARVEL!, Maine's libraries have created a powerful business model that eliminates duplication, leverages resources, and drives hard bargains to get the very best value for the dollars invested. Maine libraries have realized the economics of cooperation: statewide licensing of information resources not only reduces the rate of increase in library costs, but also extend the buying power of the individual library budget. The college and university libraries can buy more research materials, while school and public libraries gain access to resources formerly beyond their means.

Cost savings for Maine's libraries is in the millions of dollars (comparing the statewide licensed prices for all databases to the list prices, had individual institutions purchased the material separately). It is through the economics of cooperation which includes annual support from the MTEAF that we save money and extends access to all Maine's citizens.



Statewide Database Usage, 2000 - present

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	% Change 2000-2007
Logins	243,026	313,288	456,682	554,601	650,650	651,050	747,982	208%
Searches	1,423,962	1,195,917	1,356,597	1,681,221	2,028,024	2,915,557	2,956,445	108%

Database Selection Committee

Gary Nichols, State Librarian
Linda, Lord, Maine State Library
Deborah Rollins, University of Maine
Barbara McDade, Bangor Public Library

Database Selection Criteria

The purpose of the Maine InfoNet MARVEL! program is to provide all state residents with research databases that represent a range of electronic resources that will address their information and educational needs. Database selection was based on several criteria, including all databases

- Provide remote statewide access from any Internet-connected computer
- Encompasses a breadth and depth of selections that serve as the basis for a well-rounded digital library
- Provide essential resources for all ages and audiences, serving Maine's K-12, public, business, academic and special library constituencies.

Additionally, database trials were made available to statewide users, and comments from librarians and patrons solicited and used in the final evaluations.

2008 Database Highlights

EBSCOhost database package

Provides access to nearly 9000 unique full-text magazines and journals, and indexing for thousands more. This is the most important and comprehensive resource subscription, due to its content and breadth of subject areas. Most public and school libraries can only afford to subscribe to a few magazines a year.

ProQuest Newspapers

Provides access to the full text of more than 500 U.S. and International news sources, including *The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe,* and the *Times of London,* plus hundreds of other news sources and news wires. Maine papers include the *Bangor Daily News,* and *Portland Press Herald.*

Britannica Online

Provides online access to the full encyclopedia in separate formats for academic, PreK-2, K12, and public library, audiences. Also included are a dictionary, thesaurus, related web links, and the *Annals of American History* which encompasses full text of important speeches, essays, poems, court decisions and more.

Gale Business & Company Resource Center

Provides accurate, up-to-date company and industry intelligence for thousands of companies, with business reference directories and encyclopedias, statistics and ratings, investment reports, and full-text articles from over 2,800 periodicals.

MARVEL! and University System Funding Sources

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07
MTEAF	**$500,000**	**$500,000**	**$500,000**	**$500,000**	**$500,000**
Other:					
Maine State Library	$200,000	$235,000	$235,000	$236,000	$237,000
State Research fund	$175,000	$175,000	$175,000	$175,000	$175,000
University of Maine System	$94,290	$121,168	$131,167	$198,702	$221,121
	$469,290	**$531,168**	**$541,167**	**$609,702**	**$633,121**

Database Descriptions for all databases funded by PUC, Maine State Library, state research funds, and the University of Maine System. These databases are available to state and/or university patrons, as of March 2008.

AccessScience

AccessScience provides online access to the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (over 8,500 articles); research updates; the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms; the Hutchinson Dictionary of Scientific Biography; and the latest news in science and technology from Science News® and ScienCentral® videos. Content includes 15,000 illustrations and graphics; bibliographies; contributions by more than 5,000 researchers, including 36 Nobel Prize winners; and science questions answered in a weekly Q&A.

America History & Life and Historical Abstracts [University of Maine System Libraries]

AHL is an index to research on the history of the United States and Canada, from prehistoric times to the present. Includes references to journal articles, books and book reviews, dissertations, and collective works. HA covers the history of the world, except the United States and Canada, from 1450 to the present.

Annals of American History

Provides access to over 2,100 original full-text source documents on United States history from 1493 to the present. Includes speeches, essays, biographies, landmark court decisions, poems, interviews, and editorials from more than 1,500 authors. Comes with the Britannica Online subscription.

Art Index and Art Index Retrospective [University of Maine System Libraries]

Art Index is a bibliographic database from 1929 to present that indexes articles about art, architecture, archaeology, crafts, design, museology, photography, television and textiles, in addition to all aspects of art including graphic, folk, and decorative, from periodicals published throughout the world.

ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts

Index to journal articles, conference papers, books, monographs, theses, technical reports, and non-conventional literature covering all aspects of marine, brackish, and freshwater environments, with links to full text. International in scope.

Book Index with Reviews [University of Maine System Libraries]

Book Index with Reviews has information on over 4 million book titles (including audiobooks), around 700,000 music and DVD/video titles, citations to millions of reviews in peer-reviewed journals and popular magazines, and links to 800,000 full-text reviews. Also includes full-text first chapters of many books, an all-editions grouping function, Lexile scores, a rating guide based on retail and library sales, and the opportunity to save searches or create alerts. A one-click URSUS search is available from each title listing.

Britannica Online

With access to an Academic Edition, K-12 Edition, Learning Zone (PreK-2 Edition), and Public Library Edition, as well as the Britannica World Atlas, World Data Analyst, and the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus, Britannica Online is a site for all ages. Other resources include videos, timelines, classic literature in full text, country comparison tools, and quotations. Users can locate information quickly by using Boolean operators; browsing A-Z; or typing in words, phrases, or questions to receive a list of relevance-ranked articles. In addition to providing answers to a multitude of questions, Britannica

Online also leads users to additional information about their topics though related articles, links to outside Web sites, and bibliographies.

Business and Company Resource Center

Business and Company Resource Center is a fully integrated resource bringing together company profiles, brand information, rankings, investment reports, company histories, chronologies and periodicals. Search this database to find detailed company and industry news and information. Full text for over 2,900 periodicals and indexing for over 3,800.

CINAHL [University of Maine System Libraries]

Premier database for nursing and allied health literature. Includes references to journals, American Nurses' Association and National League for Nursing publications, nursing standards of practice, and critical paths.

Cochrane Library [University of Maine System Libraries]

A collection of evidence-based medicine databases. Assesses the effectiveness and appropriateness of health care interventions--including medications, surgery, and education--through systematic review of scientific literature.

CQ Researcher [University of Maine System Libraries]

Explores a single hot issue in the news in depth each week. Topics from 1991 to the present range from social and teen issues to environment, health, education and science and technology. There are 44 reports produced each year including four expanded reports.

EconLIT

Contains citations and abstracts to economic research dating back to 1969. Provides comprehensive information on accounting, capital markets, econometrics, economic forecasting, government regulations, labor economics, monetary theory, urban economics and much more. Includes links to full text.

EBSCO Database Collection

The State has licensed a full suite of databases from EBSCO to serve Maine's K-12, public, business, academic, and medical library constituencies. Through EBSCO databases, citizens and students have access to approximately full-text periodicals---magazines, scholarly journals, and professional and trade publications.

EBSCO: Primary Search

Primary Search®, designed specifically for elementary school libraries, contains full text for more than 60 popular, elementary school magazines. All full text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Full text is also available for over 100 student pamphlets. Additionally, *Primary Search* includes the *Encyclopedia of Animals*™, and features *Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia*, providing students with easy-to-read encyclopedic entries written specifically for kids. The databases also provides the *American Heritage*® *Children's Dictionary*, 3rd Edition from Houghton Mifflin, and an Image Collection.

EBSCO: Academic Search Premier

This is the world's largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary, full text database designed specifically for academic institutions. With the most valuable and most numerous collection of peer-reviewed full text journals, Academic Search™ Premier offers critical information from many sources found in no other database. This resource contains full text for 4,512 publications with more than 100 going back to 1975 or further. Academic Search Premier includes PDF images for the great majority of journals; many of these PDFs searchable or scanned-in-color. Supports core curriculum degree requirements and elective classes. This scholarly collection provides full text journal coverage for nearly all academic areas of study -

including social sciences, humanities, education, computer sciences, engineering, physics, chemistry, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, ethnic studies, etc.

8,250	Abstracted and Indexed Journals
4,512	Full Text Journals
7,157	Peer-Reviewed, Abstracted and Indexed Journals
3,739	Peer-Reviewed, Full Text Journals

EBSCO: Agricola

AGRICOLA contains bibliographic records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library. Coverage for *AGRICOLA* dates back to 1979 and includes more than 4.1 million citations to journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, software, audiovisual materials, and technical reports related to agriculture, with links to full text.

EBSCO: Biomedical Reference Collection: Basic

This database provides access to more than 100 full text journals covering such disciplines as clinical medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pre-clinical sciences and the health care system. Designed for doctors, research scientists, students, clinical specialists and managers.

EBSCO: Business Source Premier

This database, designed specifically for business schools and libraries, contains more than 2,300 full text scholarly journals and business periodicals covering management, economics, finance, accounting, international business, and much more. *Business Source® Premier* contains full text from the world's top business journals and is particularly strong in both management and marketing. The database also includes country economic reports from the EIU, Global Insight, ICON Group, CountryWatch, etc. as well as market research reports, company profiles, industry reports, and SWOT analyses.

EBSCO: EBSCO Animals

EBSCO's Encyclopedia of Animals offers in-depth information on a variety of topics relating to animals. The database consists of indexing, abstracts, photos, and full text records describing the nature and habitat of familiar animals.

EBSCO: ERIC

Education information for K-12 teachers, faculty, and pre-service education students, as well as parents and others. *ERIC®*, the Educational Resource Information Center, is a national information system supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Library of Education, and the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. It provides access to information from journals included in the *Current Index of Journals in Education* and *Resources in Education Index*. *ERIC* provides full text of more than 2,200 digests along with references for additional information and citations and abstracts from over 1,000 educational and education-related journals, as well as full text for more than 540 journals.

EBSCO: Funk and Wagnalls New World Enyclopedia

Provides over 25,000 encyclopedic entries; comes with EBSCO package. All levels.

EBSCO: Health Source: Consumer Edition

Provides access to nearly 80 full text, consumer health magazines; full text for current, health-related pamphlets and more than 130 health reference books, including books published by the People's Medical Society; more than 5,100 Clinical Reference Systems reports (in English and Spanish); Lexi-PAL Drug Guide, which covers 1,300 generic drug patient education sheets with more than 4,700 brand names; and Merriam-Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary. Health Source®: Consumer Edition covers topics such as AIDS, cancer, diabetes, drugs & alcohol, aging, fitness, nutrition & dietetics, children's health, women's health, etc.

EBSCO: Health Source: Nursing & Academic Edition

Provides nearly 550 scholarly full text journals and indexing for over 800 titles focusing on many medical disciplines. Coverage of nursing and allied health is particularly strong, including full text from *Creative Nursing, Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing, Issues in Mental Health Nursing, Journal of Advanced Nursing, Journal of Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, Journal of Clinical Nursing, Journal of Community Health Nursing, Journal of Nursing Management, Nursing Ethics, Nursing Forum, Nursing Inquiry*, and many more.

EBSCO: Kids Search

EBSCO"s interface designed for primary to middle school age students. It provides an easy-to-use, graphically appealing interface to search *Primary Search, Middle Search Plus, Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia*, and *EBSCO Animals. Academic Search Premier* and *ERIC* are also available through the Teacher Resources link.

EBSCO: Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)

LISTA is a free service from EBSCO that indexes nearly 690 periodicals, plus books, research reports and proceedings. Subject coverage includes librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more. Coverage in the database extends back as far as the mid-1960s. Its citations are linked to full text in Maine's subscribed databases from EBSCO and other publishers.

EBSCO: MAS Ultra - School Edition

This comprehensive database, designed specifically for high school libraries, contains full text for more than 500 popular, high school magazines including *America's Civil War, American Heritage, American History, American Visions, Archaeology, Astronomy, Bioscience, Careers & Colleges, Civil War Times Illustrated, CQ Weekly, Discover, Economist, History Today, Nation, National Review, New Republic, New Scientist, Popular Science, Science News, Scientific American, Smithsonian, World War II,* etc. All full text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Full text is also available for 84,774 biographies and 105,787 primary source documents. Additionally, MAS Ultra -- School Edition contains more than 360 reference books (including the Columbia Encyclopedia, the CIA World Fact Book and World Almanac & Book of Facts), an Image Collection of 293,480 photos, maps & flags, color PDFs and expanded full text backfiles (back to 1975) for key magazines.

EBSCO: MasterFILE Premier

Designed specifically for public libraries, MasterFILE™ Premier contains full text for more than 1,750 periodicals covering general reference, business, health, education, general science, multicultural issues and much more. This database also contains full text for nearly 500 reference books, 86,019 biographies, 105,787 primary source documents, and an Image Collection of 293,480 photos, maps & flags. MasterFILE Premier offers PDF backfiles (as far back as 1975) for key publications including American Libraries, Foreign Affairs, History Today, Judaism, Library Journal, National Review, Saturday Evening Post, etc. Science News is available in HTML back to 1975.

EBSCO: MEDLINE

MEDLINE® provides authoritative medical information on medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, pre-clinical sciences, and much more. Created by the National Library of Medicine, *MEDLINE* uses MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) indexing with tree numbers, tree hierarchy and explosion capabilities to search abstracts from over 4,600 current biomedical journals. Included are citations from *Index Medicus, International Nursing Index, Index to Dental Literature*, *PREMEDLINE*®, *AIDSLINE*®, *BIOETHICSLINE*®, and *HealthSTAR*®.

EBSCO: Middle Search Plus

Middle Search® Plus contains full text for more than 140 popular, middle school magazines. All full text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Full text is also available for thousands of biographies and historical essays. Additionally, Middle Search Plus contains primary source documents including Essential Documents in American History, reference books including the Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia and American Heritage® Dictionary, 4th Edition from Houghton Mifflin, the Encyclopedia of Animals™, and an Image Collection of 293,480 photos, maps and flags.

EBSCO: Military & Government Collection

Provides full text for nearly 300 journals and periodicals pertaining to all branches of the military and government, and indexing and abstracts for nearly 400 journals. Publications covered in this database include *Air Force Comptroller, Army Reserve Magazine, Defence Studies, JFQ: Joint Force Quarterly, Military Technology, Combat Edge, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Foreign Affairs, Naval Forces*, and many more.

EBSCO: Nursing & Allied Health Collection: Basic

Provides full text access to nearly 100 journals covering the areas of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences, consumer health and allied health disciplines.

EBSCO: Regional Business News

A supplemental database for customers of *Business Source Premier*. Regional Business News provides full text for more than 50 regional business publications (including titles from Crain Communications).

EBSCO: Searchasaurus for Kids

Easy-to-use, colorful interface for young children. Databases include *Primary Search, Middle Search Plus, Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia*, and *EBSCO Animals*.

EBSCO: Student Research Center

Provides middle and high school students with an easy-to-use, graphically appealing interface they can use to search *Middle Search Plus, MAS Ultra School Edition, Columbia Encyclopedia, Health Sources -- Consumer Edition*, and *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.

Education Full Text [University of Maine System Libraries]

Provides high-quality indexing and abstracts for an international range of English-language education journals, books, and yearbooks. More than 725 Journals are indexed "cover to cover" going back to 1983. Full text articles are provided for over 350 journals going back to 1996.

Environment Complete

Indexes more than 1,100 journals covering topics such as agriculture, ecosystem ecology, energy, renewable energy sources, natural resources, marine & freshwater science, geography, pollution & waste management, environmental technology, environmental law, public policy, social impacts, urban planning, and more. Contains full text for more than 650 journals, including many of the most used journals in the discipline, such as *Environment* (back to 1975), *Ecologist, Conservation Biology*, etc. Additionally, Environment Complete provides full text for more than 100 monographs, such as *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History* (3 volumes), and *Advances in Water Treatment & Environmental Management*.

Food Science & Technology Abstracts

Index to over 1,400 journals as well as standards, conference proceedings, theses, patents, and books in subject areas including food chemistry and microbiology, food product development, food safety, and nutrition. Includes links to full text.

Forest Science

Forest Science indexes and abstracts international and domestic forest, wood science, and agroforestry research articles, books, and conferences, with content from 1939 to present. It is an ideal source for foresters, scientists, environmental consultants, policy makers and others actively involved in research or decision-making in agroforestry, forestry, wood science, and the forest and timber industries. Includes links to full text.

Gale Literature Resource Center

Includes literary criticism, biography, and essays from the sources *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism Select*, *Scribner's Writers Series*, and *Twayne's Authors Series*. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*: Provides nearly 10,000 biographical and critical essays on the lives, works, and careers of the world's most influential literary figures from all eras and genres. *Contemporary Authors*: A bio-bibliographical guide to current writers in fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television and other fields. *Contemporary Literary Criticism Select*: Contains critical and biographical essays on authors currently living or who died after 1959. *Scribner Writer's Series* includes 15-20 page signed essays on more than 1,600 authors and literary genres drawn from 13 acclaimed Scribner print series. *Twayne's Authors Series* offers critical introductions to the lives and works of writers, to the history and influence of literary movements, and to the development of literary genres.

GeoRef

A comprehensive geosciences database containing over 2.4 million bibliographic records for the geo-science literature of the world. Among the subjects covered in *GeoRef* are: environmental and engineering geology, hydrology, economic geology, geophysics, petrology, paleontology, marine geology and oceanography, and mineralogy. Over 3,000 journals are reviewed for indexing in the *GeoRef* database as well as books, maps, government reports, conference papers, and theses and dissertations. Over 80,000 references are added to *GeoRef* annually. The geology of North America is covered from 1785 to the present, and coverage dates back to 1933 for the rest of the world. The American Geological Institute produces this database. Includes links to full text.

Historical Statistics of the United States [University of Maine System Libraries]

Updates and expands the Census Bureau's 1975 work of the same name. It contains quantitative historical information covering virtually every quantifiable dimension of American history: population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, governance, and international relations, all from the earliest times to the present. Also covers topics that received little or no coverage in the 1975 edition: American Indians, slavery, poverty, race, and ethnicity. Allows one to graph and combine data from different tables into custom tables, and to download tables for use in spreadsheets and other applications.

Hospitality & Tourism Complete

Indexes domestic and international literature on tourism, with full text for over 300 publications. Subject areas covered include the culinary arts, demographics & statistics, development & investment, food & beverage management, hospitality law, hotel management & administrative practices, leisure & business travel, market trends, technology and more.

Maine Newsstand

Maine Newsstand is a subset of Proquest Newspapers (see below), comprising the *Portland Press Herald* and the *Bangor Daily News* in full text.

Mental Measurements Yearbook [University of Maine System Libraries]

Covers more than 2,200 commercially available tests in categories such as achievement, aptitude, behavioral assessment, developmental, educational, intelligence, neuropsychological, personality, sensory motor and speech & hearing.

MLA International Bibliography [University of Maine System Libraries]

Index to scholarly research in literature, language, linguistics, and folklore. Indexes articles from more than 3,500 journals and series. Also indexes monographs, working papers, proceedings, and bibliographies.

Nature

Nature is the full text online version of the weekly international journal, publishing original, groundbreaking research spanning all of the scientific disciplines, with an archive back to 1997.

NetLibrary

The Netlibrary collection is a collection of 7,885 ebooks (4,480 Netlibrary titles and 3,405 Project Gutenberg titles). The collection is accessible to all Maine citizens.

Novelist

A leading electronic fiction resource. NoveList provides enhanced subject access to over 100,000 fiction titles. With NoveList, you can: - Find fiction titles based on a favorite author, title, or description - Browse lists based on genre or awards (over 1000 pre-made lists) - Search the database using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) - Search by subject heading, reviews, publishers; basically every field in the title record - Read and use feature articles, book discussion guides, and book talks (children and YA) developed exclusively for NoveList - Explore materials developed to increase your skills when working with a reader.

Novelist K-8

NoveList K-8 is for teachers and younger readers who want to find fiction titles for classroom use or reading. It covers K-8 grade levels and includes picture books, children's chapter books and young adult titles. Search options include theme, setting, instructional unit, culture, and more. Includes full-text book reviews, teacher resources, thematic units, and BookTalks.

Oceanic Abstracts

Index to journal articles, conference papers, books, and reports covering the marine and brackish-water environment. Topics covered include biological, chemical, and physical oceanography, ecology, geochemistry, geophysics, marine biology, and marine geology. Indexes over 500 journals. Comes with subscription to ASFA. Includes links to full text.

Oxford English Dictionary [University of Maine System Libraries]

The Oxford English Dictionary is the accepted authority on the evolution of the English language over the last millennium. It is an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, history, and pronunciation of over half a million words, both present and past. It traces the usage of words through 2.5 million quotations from a wide range of international English language sources, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts and cookery books.

Oxford Reference Online [University of Maine System Libraries]

A cross-searchable collection of more than 100 language and subject dictionaries and reference works published by Oxford University Press. The scope is broad, including works in the areas of science and medicine, the humanities and social sciences, and business and law. English dictionaries and thesauri, guides to grammar and usage, and dictionaries of etymology, foreign languages, quotations, and names are provided.

PAIS International [University of Maine System Libraries]

Index to the literature of public and social policy, and other aspects of social sciences. Includes journal articles, serials, books, government documents, directories, and public, intergovernmental, and private organization reports.

ProQuest Newspapers

Provides access to the full text of more than 500 U.S. and international news sources, including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Times of London*, plus hundreds of other news sources and news wires. Maine papers include the *Bangor Daily News* and *Portland Press Herald*.

PsycArticles [University of Maine System Libraries]

A database of full-text articles from over 50 psychology journals published by the American Psychological Association, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Hogrefe & Huber.

PsycINFO [University of Maine System Libraries]

Index to the professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines, including medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, and other areas. Coverage includes references and abstracts to over 1,300 journals in more than 20 languages, and to book chapters and books in the English language. The database includes information from empirical studies, case studies, surveys, bibliographies, literature reviews, discussion articles, conference reports and dissertations.

RILM Abstracts of Music Literature [University of Maine System Libraries]

An international bibliography of scholarly writings on music and music related disciplines. Dating from 1967 to the present, this database offers indexing of sources published in over 140 languages. It is classified by topic and includes original-language titles, title translations in English and full bibliographic information. Also included are abstracts in English; author, subject, and periodical indexes; and a detailed thesaurus.

ScienceDirect [University of Maine System Libraries]

ScienceDirect provides indexing, abstracts, and full-text for more than 1,800 scientific, technical and medical journals from the publisher Elsevier Science.

Sociological Abstracts [University of Maine System Libraries]

Covers sociology and related disciplines including anthropology, criminology, demography, education, gerontology, mental health, minority studies, political science, public health, social psychology, social work, urban studies, welfare programs, and women's studies. Comprehensive and international in scope. Covers about 2,600 journals in 30 different languages from 55 different countries. Also includes books, conference papers,and doctoral dissertations.

SPORTDiscus [University of Maine System Libraries]

Covers all aspects of sports. Subjects include biomechanics, coaching, engineering, physical therapy, and physiology. Indexes over 2,000 journals as well as books, theses, and non-print resources.

Value Line

Value Line Investment Survey, available in Maine's public libraries, provides independent investment information, analyzing over 1,700 stocks. The Rating & Reports section details the history, current status, and projected performance of individual stocks. Selection & Opinion gives Value Line's perspective on the economy and the stock market outlook. The Summary and Index provides recent prices and current rankings based on timeliness and safety.

Value Line Research Center, available in Maine academic institutions, provides access to Value Line's leading publications covering stocks, mutual funds, options and convertible securities as well as special situation stocks. Online titles include: *The Value Line Investment Survey*, *The Value Line Investment Survey – Small and Mid-Cap Edition*, *The Value Line Mutual Fund Survey*, *The Value Line Daily Options Survey, The Value Line Special Situations Service, The Value Line Convertibles Survey*, and *Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)*.

Wildlife & Ecology Studies Worldwide
Includes over 345,000 citations to the literature on mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians found in journals, conference proceedings, monographs, theses and dissertations, and government reports.

Women's Studies International [University of Maine System Libraries]
Index to the interdisciplinary field of women's studies, this database covers material in the fields of arts and humanities, business, economics, education, history, international relations, political science, public policy, and sociology. Covers from 1972 forward, and includes journal articles, books, book chapters, and dissertations.

WorldCat [University of Maine System Libraries, Maine State Library, other URSUS libraries]
Bibliographic records for more than 36 million items held at OCLC member libraries throughout the world. Includes all types of information resources. Updated daily.

Lord, Linda

Subject: FW: Brian Walker's 793 testimony

Testimoney Regarding Online Databases Given in the spring of 2007.

Senator Rotundo, Representative Fisher and other members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

My name is Brian Walker, and I am President of a small innovation consulting firm, Point B Consulting, Inc., incorporated here in Maine. My firm's clients are primarily large corporations and include PepsiCo, PBS, Starbucks, Visa International, Kraft Foods and, closer to home, L.L. Bean.

I include myself and my firm as one of the new generation of Maine businesses – establishing our companies and paying both our corporate and personal taxes to the state of Maine – because of lifestyle choice. Maine truly is The Way Life Should Be.

However, living in Maine does present potential problems. Unlike large cities, I do not have direct physical access to information essential for successfully operating my business. To be situated in Maine, I – and information-driven companies like mine - need to effectively access information electronically.

The bill your are discussing today, LD 793 involves, among other areas, funding of one of the most important resources I have: MARVEL.

MARVEL lets me research subjects that are critical to the effective operation and growth of my business. With MARVEL, I can research companies and their competition, get up-to-speed on industries I may be targeting for new business pitches, and access journals and publications to research trends on which to focus innovation efforts. Importantly, MARVEL lets me do all of this from a single database which saves me huge amounts of time. As a business consultant, time truly is money!

If I tried to duplicate MARVEL on my own, I would literally have to pay thousands of dollars a year to do so, and even then I would not be able to duplicate the magnitude of resource points to which MARVEL connects me in seconds.

In short, MARVEL helps me level the playing field with my competition that are based in large cities like Boston, Chicago and New York.

I have been asked to speak today from a businessperson's standpoint, but I will also say that MARVEL is a fantastic research tool for anyone, including our young people.

In closing, I urge you to pass LD 743 and support the infrastructure that allows small, information-based companies like mine to be attracted to – and remain – in Maine.

Brian Walker
PointB
Point B Consulting, Inc.
Facilitation, Collaboration, Innovation
Office: 207-655-2175
brian@pointb-consulting.com

Molly-
I just wanted you to know that after our last Department Head Meeting where we viewed your recent collaboration with Tim Sample on the usage and capabilities of the MARVEL program, I had the opportunity to make use of my newly gained knowledge. As you are well aware, Rockport is in the process of developing our FY08-09 Budget. I found myself needing to do research for a particular aspect of the budget. MARVEL proved invaluable in undertaking that task. I was able to find the information quickly and easily. Now that I have first hand knowledge of its capabilities, I plan adding to my research tool bag.
Bob

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