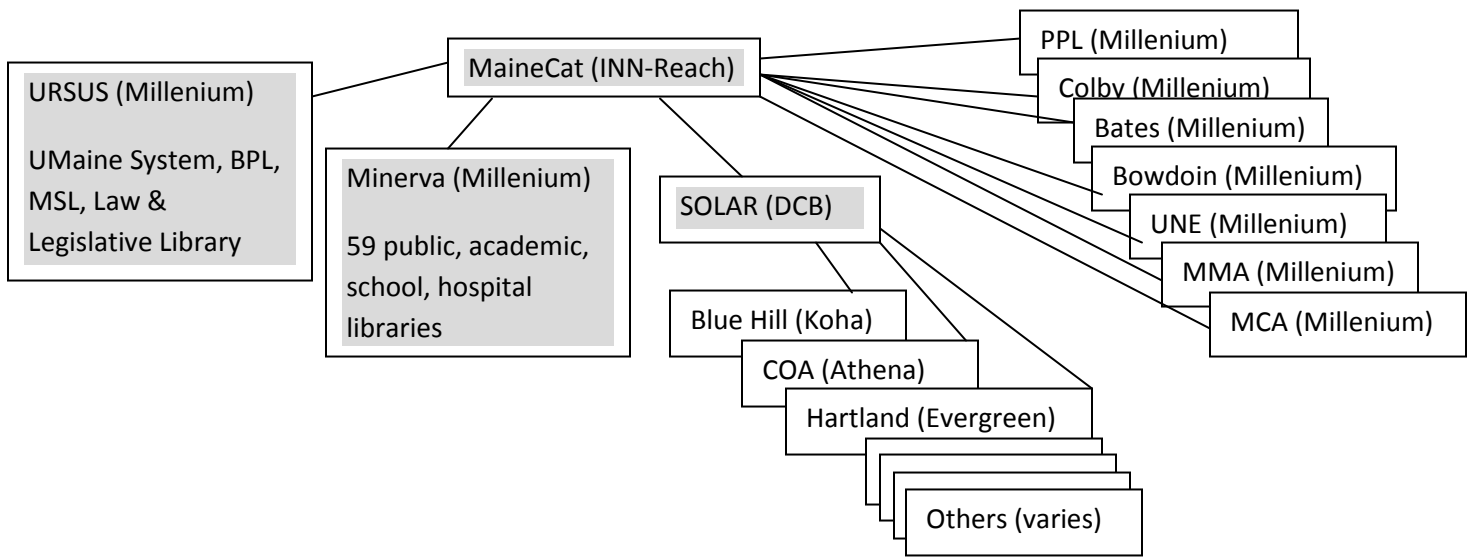


Maine InfoNet and the MaineCat Environment *

System Map: (Grey background denotes systems managed by MIN staff)



Maine InfoNet: Maine InfoNet (MIN) is a collaborative of academic, public, school, and special libraries that is supported by the Maine State Library and the University of Maine System (UMS). MIN functions both as a direct operations group supporting systems in the MaineCat environment (along with other Library technology services) and as a collaborative organization governed by the Maine InfoNet Board of Directors. MIN is made up of 5 system librarians (2 from the State Library, 3 from the University System) and an executive director (co-funded by MSL and UMS) and is based out of offices in Orono.

MaineCat:

MaineCat is a union of library catalogs and catalog systems that facilitates the sharing of library materials among diverse libraries throughout the state. MaineCat is managed by MIN with support from the Maine State Library, the University of Maine System, and Minerva. MaineCat is currently powered by the INN-Reach software product from Innovative Interfaces Incorporated (III)

MINERVA:

Minerva is a self governing group of libraries that share a library catalog system, called Minerva. The system contains a mix of public, academic, school, and special libraries. The system is run using III's Millennium software housed on UMS IT servers and is managed by MIN staff.

URSUS:

URSUS comprises the 7 members of the University of Maine system, the Maine State Library, the Maine Law and Legislative Library and the Bangor Public Library in a shared system that also runs on using III's Millennium software housed on University IT servers and is managed by MIN staff.

SOLAR:

SOLAR enables libraries to make their holdings visible through MaineCat and to participate in interlibrary lending with other MaineCat libraries. SOLAR is not designed, nor can it function, as a primary library automation system, particularly in regards to patron management and circulation. SOLAR is the sole means by which libraries running systems that are not based on III software can interact with MaineCat. Unlike other MaineCat affiliates, patrons of SOLAR libraries must make their requests with

the help of library staff, rather than directly in the system. SOLAR is run using III's Direct Consortial Borrowing System (DCB) software housed on UMS IT servers and is managed by MIN staff. For a more complete report outlining the SOLAR system and the current problems with the system please see: http://maineinfonet.net/documents/SOLAR_draft_report.pdf

Standalones:

A number of libraries throughout the state, including among others Portland Public, University of New England, Colby, Bates and Bowdoin, manage their own systems that are running III's Millennium software. These libraries connect directly to MaineCat with real-time collection information and patron initiated requesting.

Possible future MaineCat Scenarios:

Currently MaineCat and the systems which feed into it are all running some version of software that has been developed by, and licensed from, Innovative Interfaces Inc. Although the system functions extremely smoothly for those directly connected, it is not possible to easily connect non-III libraries to the system either through SOLAR or other means. Maine InfoNet, through a sub-committee of its Board of Directors, is currently evaluating possible future plans for MaineCat. These could include continuing with the current system, moving to a cloud-based system being developed by OCLC, moving to an open-source system such as Evergreen and Fulfillment, or some combination of all three.

Other Maine InfoNet Services and Projects:

Apart from technical management of MaineCat, Minerva, URSUS, and SOLAR, Maine InfoNet plays a role in a number of statewide services and initiatives. A selection of those follows:

- **MARVEL!** – MARVEL! is a set of research databases and tools that is available to all citizens in the state of Maine. Funding comes from a variety of sources including the State Library, the Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund (MTEAF), the University of Maine, and Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin Colleges. MIN provides an organization home for the service as well as technical support and management of the resources.
- **Maine InfoNet Download Library** – The Download Library is a collection of downloadable ebooks and audiobooks that are made available to the patrons of member libraries. Public libraries that want access pay a yearly membership fee based on the population of the towns they serve, the bulk of which is used for licensing of content for the library. The system, based on the Overdrive system, is managed by Maine InfoNet with Bangor Public Library acting as the fiscal agent.
- **Maine Shared Collection Strategy** – Maine InfoNet is one partner in this IMLS funded project that will work to create a state-wide strategy for collaboratively managing library book collections into the future. There are 8 partner libraries comprising the State Library and the largest public and academic libraries in Maine.
- **Statewide Library Meetings and Summits** – Maine InfoNet has recently started to convene meetings bringing together librarians from all types of libraries and from across the state to talk about our shared activities and the future of libraries in the state. These have mostly focused on various areas of library service including circulation and ILL, collection management, and an annual meeting bringing together directors of all types of libraries.

MIN = Maine InfoNet

BPL = Bangor Public Library

MSL = Maine State Library

PPL = Portland Public Library

UNE = University of New England

MMA = Maine Maritime Academy

MCA = Maine College of Art

COA = College of Atlantic