Automated Resource Sharing Networks
7000-9506

The Nine Automated Resource Sharing Networks in Massachusetts provide libraries with technology, support, digital content, and more that helps connect libraries to their users and facilitates/enables sharing books, eBooks, audiobooks and more across the Commonwealth.

Resource Sharing

Funding for resource sharing encourages libraries to cooperatively share materials, giving library users access to millions more items than are available at their home library. Network's library management systems provide the catalog, the requesting and tracking ability and verifies user credentials for access to electronic resources, an undertaking which would be out of reach for a single library. In addition, Networks drive interlibrary lending thorugh the Commonwealth Catalog giving residents access to materials that their home network doesn't have.

Digital Content

Networks play an important role in the statewide eBook and audiobook program, providing digital books to libraries that can be borrowed across the Commonwealth. All networks have seen a significant increase to digital content demands as more library users borrow eBooks and audiobooks through OverDrive. The MBLC's Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA) Grant makes keeping up with patron demand possible for Networks and their member libraries, purchasing new and additional titles that can be borrowed by any Massachusetts resident with a library card.

Support for Libraries

Libraries depend on Networks for technology that helps them run everyday operations. Many also receive telecommunications and internet access through their Network. In addition, Networks provide ongoing support and training to librarians to help day-to-day operations run smoothly. Access to Network membership is critically important for libraries. Small Libraries in Networks (SLIN) grants help libraries in municipalities with populations under 10,000 – nearly one half of public libraries -- join and receive the many benefits of network membership for their local library users.

Massachusetts Libraries:
Getting it Done