



Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

(7000-9401)



MLS provides training, consulting, temporary staffing, and more to help libraries and librarians meet the challenges they face today and in preparation for the future. In addition, MLS provides delivery of library materials across the Commonwealth that are requested through the Automated Networks or the Commonwealth Catalog. In FY2019, 13.7 million items were delivered through this service. This service saves municipalities money and gives residents access to millions of items that would otherwise be unavailable. MLS also provides funding and support to the statewide databases and to participating Massachusetts school libraries for eBooks and audiobooks.

Library for the Commonwealth (LFC) at the Boston Public Library

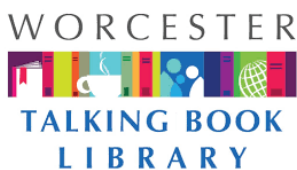
(7000-9401)



Formerly known as the “Library of Last Recourse,” LFC provides services and expands access for all Massachusetts residents to collections, reference and research assistance, education and skill building tools, and our shared cultural heritage. In addition, through the Digital Commonwealth project, the BPL has become a leader in digitizing collections from all across Massachusetts, making them available for everyone, no matter where they live. 216 municipalities have at least one institution that has submitted materials to the Digital Commonwealth.

The Worcester Talking Book Library

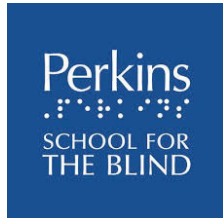
(7000-9402)



WTBL is a sub-regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. Located inside of the Worcester Public Library, WTBL provides large print for children and adults as well as digital audio, braille children’s books, audio described DVDs and magazines, and the necessary equipment needed to access these materials. In addition, the library also provides readers advisory services to vision-impaired and physically disabled individuals of all ages who are unable to read standard print materials due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. All materials and equipment are delivered and returned postage free through the U.S. Postal Service.

Perkins Library

(7000-9406)



Statewide, over 25,000 individuals with print disabilities, and institutions and organizations providing services to this population, depend on the Perkins Library as the primary source of accessible reading materials for study, work, personal enrichment, intellectual development, and leisure. The need for accessible library services is likely to rise steeply due to an aging population. Vision loss due to macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts correlates strongly with age. By 2020, the population of Americans age 40 and older who are blind is projected to be 70% larger than it was in 2004.

Automated Library Networks

(7000-9506)

Automated Library Networks

Massachusetts has nine automated library networks around the state that are collaboratively run by their member libraries to provide services to patrons. They work behind the scenes to provide Massachusetts residents with access to current technology such as Wi-Fi, digital resources, and broadband internet access. Networks provide the infrastructure for online catalogues that allow patrons to find materials at all member libraries quickly and easily. In addition, the Networks currently collaborate to allow sharing of eBooks across the Commonwealth through the new program LEA (Library eBooks and Audiobooks). LEA allows patrons to search through the networks to find the content they are looking for, making the sharing of eBooks more in line with the sharing of traditional print resources.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB)

(7000-9508)



The MCB operates as an affiliate of the Library of Congress (LOC) and represents the Commonwealth in several national initiatives including linking Massachusetts libraries to the programs and resources of LOC, programming the Massachusetts booth at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C., administering Massachusetts's portion of the national Letters About Literature program, and spearheading an East Coast collaborative reading promotion project, Route 1 Reads. MCB also works to enhance library programming with statewide impact. These programs include the annual Massachusetts Book Awards, an online statewide calendar of events for Massachusetts libraries, and an online and mobile tool for literary trails and tours.