



MLA Executive Board Agenda

Friday, February 12, 2021, 10am-12pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82832523996>
Meeting ID: 828 3252 3996

1. Call to order and vote to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2020 meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report (Bernadette)
3. FY22 budget (Bernadette and all)
4. Conference Update
5. Social Media Policy (PR Committee)
6. Strategic plan (Nora)
7. Updates
 - a. MBLC
 - b. MLS
 - c. NELA
 - d. MSLA
 - e. ALA Councilor
8. New Business
9. Old Business
10. Adjournment

*Next meeting: Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:00am



Association Manager Monthly Activity Report

Date: January 2021

Meetings Attended

- Attended 1/8/21 Virtual Eboard Meeting

Membership/ Customer Service

- Continued to respond to member emails and voicemails.
- 3 donations totalling \$155 in donations received in 2020, personalized thank you emails sent.
- Created list for YSS Committee of member sign ups that indicated interest on their forms. I will start doing this for each committee every month.

Outside Agencies

- 17 new/renewal joint NELA members.
- 8 new/renewal joint ALA student members.

Financial

- Continued check PO Box, make bank deposits and update Quickbooks and membership invoices.
- Created deposit form in section/committee info folder in Google drive.

IT

- Removed prior Membership chair's contact information from email templates, setup Membership@masslib.org to forward to manager@masslib.org until temporarily due to vacancy.
- Contacted Wild Apricot Technical Support to see if we could implement banner ads as revenue streams. Unfortunately the only functionality available is revolving photo albums.
- Imbedded MLA's Twitter feed on our front page.

Goals Met:

- Created "thank you for your donation to MLA" email template

Goals for Next Month:

- Assist Treasurer in looking for ways to cut budget.
- Assist Conference Director with file storage for Conference videos.
- Use WA's clone site feature to explore website redesign. Create new Graphics for website and better organize.
- Add Meta tags in Wild Apricot for search engine optimisation
- Membership form-add disclaimer that you can't change levels and renew at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Beckley



Conference Committee Report

February 2021

The 2021 Conference will be virtual this year. "Let's Get Digital" will be held May 17-19.

Meetings:

The Conference Committee held a virtual meeting on Friday, January 15. Our next meeting is on Friday, February 26 at 10 am on Zoom.

Conference Registration Fees: There will be a flat fee for all three days.

- Non-members = \$100
- Members = \$75
- Members (Retired/Unemployed/Students) = \$50
- Speakers (1 day only) = \$0.00
- Speakers (additional days beyond the one day already included) = \$50.00
- Platinum - gets two (2) passes
- Gold - gets one (1) pass

Fundraising/Basket Raffle: It has been decided that we will forgo a basket raffle this year, however we may add a button at registration for attendees to donate directly to MLA. We are also looking into selling t-shirts on demand.

Program Schedule and Program Proposals: The 2021 program schedule and programs are being finalized. All speaker photos and bios need to be completed by February 5th.

PR: We are working on a Save the Date via email but will be popping up a Save the Date onto the MLA Website shortly.

Conference Website: Kristen is creating a conference website.

Sponsorship: Sponsorship proposal was approved; Kristen is working on selling those sponsorships.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Filleul
Conference Co-chair



Jordan Miller Committee Report

February 12 2021

We received 113 applications this year for the Jordan Miller Grant.

We will give preference to libraries outside of Massachusetts, and we received applications from all New England States except for Massachusetts. Thank you to NERTCL state reps for getting the word out about this.

Amy Dorsheimer and I have narrowed down the grant applications and hope to decide on the winner by early next week, possibly sooner.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McCuen

Jordan Miller Committee Co-Chair



Leadership and Management Section (LAMS) Report

January 2021

- LAMS held the first meeting of this year January 22 on Zoom.
- There were 20 people in attendance
- This session featured a guest speaker, Chris Tieri who led the group through an exercise about goal setting and accountability for the upcoming year. The exercise had participants take stock of the last year, and thinking about the strengths and attributes that contributed to successes. Using this framework, participants considered 2021 goals both personal, organizational and professional.
- A member submitted a question about the use of redacted resumes as a tool to combat unconscious bias when reviewing resumes. This municipality redacted information like personal and institutional names and date before sharing the resumes with the librarian who was hiring. Members shared input and asked questions about this practice.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Deedy
LAMS Secretary



Legislative Committee Report February 2021

Legislative Committee continued to meet both as a large group, but also in committees during the first part of 2021.

The Committee at large has been concerned with the following:

- **FY21 State Budget** – This has been a budget process like no other. After a number of vetoes from the Governor, LegComm mobilized, using Engage, to urge legislators to override the vetoes. This effort was a success and library funding was restored.
- **FY22 State Budget** – LegComm has reviewed the FY22 MBLC Legislative Agenda and are prepared to support this. It is still the early stages of the state budget season, but LegComm is preparing to encourage legislators to support the Agenda.
- **Legislative Breakfasts** – After some discussion, LegComm drafted a letter to networks, advocacy groups, and others involved in previous legislative breakfasts. The letter suggested that offering breakfasts was not a priority in 2021. This decision was made for a number of reasons, including Zoom burnout, tight schedules, and strange budget season. If groups choose to hold events, LegComm will still support them. We have created an online calendar and best practices document for this legislative breakfast season.
- **Legislative Day** – Early planning has already begun on Leg Day. We will be holding the event online using a similar model to last year. The tentative dates are April 6th, 7th, & 8th. A subcommittee has begun meeting to discuss the event. Next planning meeting 2/10.

Advocacy Action Subcommittee – This group is made up of members of LegComm, MSLA, and other stakeholders. This is the group actively engaging with EveryLibrary. This group's work includes:

- Working with John Chrastka from EveryLibrary on a new advocacy initiative.
 - **Orientation Packet for Legislators**
 - Currently on our third draft
 - **Communications with Ranking Members in the Legislature and members of the Library Caucus**
 - **Expanding Legislative Day to include the public; this will involve the public taking a pledge to support Mass. Libraries**
 - Meeting to discuss further, 2/9
 - **MLA/MSLA Advocacy Retreat to:**
 - Set advocacy agenda for the future
 - Begin building coalitions
 - Date TBD

LegComm continues to benefit from working with members of MBLC, MLS, MSLA, WMLA, and CMLA, who regularly attend our meetings.

Next meeting: March 5, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Co-Chair, Jennifer Harris, Plymouth Public Library, retired
Co-Chair, William Adamczyk, Milton Public Library



Library Information Technologies Section (LITS) Report

February 2021

- The Section met on February 9 and is looking again to drive more interest and engagement in LITS.
- We finalized our programming slate for the 2021 conference and are looking forward to talks on privacy and surveillance, Twitch and Discord, and pivoting to help colleagues provide digital services during the pandemic.
- In 2019, MLA endorsed a facial recognition moratorium in Massachusetts and later a Boston-specific version of the legislation. As an update, the ACLU is continuing to press the Biden administration to ban the use of facial recognition technology at the federal level. See more: <https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/our-asks-bidens-civil-liberties-and-civil-rights-to-do-list/>

Respectfully submitted,
Callan Bignoli



Public Relations Committee Report

February 2021

PR Committee Administrative Highlights

Advocacy Support

On January 14, 2021, the Public Relations Chairs received a request to assist the Admin Board on drafting a letter advocating for the addition of Library Workers to Phase 2 of Covid Vaccine Rollout. PR Chairs Andrea Puglisi and Jocelyn Tavares submitted the requested letter to the Admin Board on January 18, 2021.

Social Media Policy

Public Relations finalized its draft recommendation for MLA's Social Media Policy. As a related document, MLA PR is also presenting a set of Suggested Social Media Guidelines. We believe that this will help MLA Members be successful online. MLA PR would like to see the Guidelines incorporated as a part of any Welcome Letter that goes out to New MLA Members. We are recommending that the Code of Conduct to also be presented to MLA Members as part of the Welcome Letter.

Once MLA's Social Media Policy and Suggested Social Media Guidelines are approved by the Executive Board, MLA PR is asking for the Admin Board to post this information on MLA's website so that Members who have questions can easily be directed to these PR Documents.

Building on the parameters outlined in the Social Media Policy, MLA PR will turn its work towards developing a Style Guide for the Association.

PR Committee Highlights

MLA PR Committee convened via Zoom on Wednesday, January 27th at 3:00 PM to discuss Conference, Awards, and Executive Board opportunities.

Biennial PR Awards

Massachusetts Library Association's Public Relations (MLA PR) Committee has been working on planning the Biennial PR Awards and Conference needs. PR Committee will be offering MLA's Biennial PR Awards as an independent event, outside of conference. Due to the logistical challenges and time consuming nature of PR Awards on libraries who submit materials for evaluation, the PR Committee is

working on making this process virtual and easy. PR Committee Members [Carol Gafford](#) and [Melody Friedenthal](#) are doing significant preliminary work on this and we thank them greatly.

Conference Updates

MLA PR has firmed up its program that will be offered at MLA's Virtual Conference in May. All PR Members have been encouraged to speak. At this time PR Chairs Andrea Puglisi and [Jocelyn Tavares](#) will be joined by Erin Fragola. The program will focus on building a vibrant Social Media presence, and speak to MLA PR's successes, opportunities and challenges. MLA PR is working on creating this presentation.

Social Media Policy

Following a discussion during our Committee Meeting on 1/27/2021, we applied final edits to the document and provided a final opportunity for members who were unable to attend to weigh in. PR Committee conducted a vote by email ratifying the proposed policy and companion MLA Guidelines documents on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Puglisi and Jocelyn Tavares
Public Relations Chairs



Treasurer's Report: Budget Process FY22

The attached spreadsheet is the combined budget data received from all committees and sections. Over the past month the Admin Board has met numerous times and have had conversations with some committees and sections to tweak this budget to something the association can support. Unfortunately, we are not there yet. The full budget, by committee and section, is on the google drive for all board members to review.

Our general goal each year is that profit on conference covers any shortfall there is in the operating budget of the organization that funds all other functions. Under normal conditions, conference turns a healthy profit that keeps us going. Given the uncertainty of this year and next year, we are going over the budget with a fine tooth comb looking for opportunities to cut expenses as the conference budget as presented is \$27,255 short and the operating budget is short and additional \$17,820. This is not a budget the association can financially support, so we need to look for savings opportunities, which will most likely involve changing programs and services to accommodate reality. Many of the questions revolve around the financial feasibility of offering a hybrid conference next year.

Until we can tweak this budget to meet the financial goals of the organization, I am unable to present a budget for a vote. I would like a motion to postpone voting on the budget until we can do more work to make the budget align with the financial goals of the organization, and that the Executive Board be permitted to vote the proposed budget by email.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard
MLA Treasurer



Treasurer's Report

February 2020

I have been working with Kristen on tweaking the 2020 Conference Budget. Here are some updates:

- In consultation with the conference committee we have decided to have a flat fee for conference registration, not a per day fee. This will simplify many things and give registrants access to the whole conference, not just one day, which seems to be a good idea as it is a virtual conference and travel is not necessary. Members \$75, Nonmembers, \$100, Presenters, retired or students (\$50 or \$60). See below for details on speakers. Kristen's calculation of this has actually shown that our income under this plan should increase.
- Speakers, who were initially told they would have one day free registration, will be given the opportunity to attend the conference for a flat fee (\$50 or \$60).
- We will not be mailing a print postcard to promote the conference.
- Due to questions about the legality of online raffles, the Mass AG advises getting legal advice before holding one, and the logistics of collecting funds and distributing the baskets to winners, we will be skipping the basket raffle this year. However, when people register they will be asked to make a donation to MLA to help defray our costs that the basket raffle will normally cover.
- This budget with an income of \$38,719 and expenses of \$44,000 including credit card and conference manager salary cost could, with a few extra sponsors or attendees, come close to breaking even. The income account is subtracting out the over \$9000 in sponsors that was collected for last years conference that is being applied to this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard
MLA Treasurer

MBLC Director's Report to MLA Executive Board February 2021

The Governor's **House 1 FY2022 budget** proposal, released on January 27th, level-funds almost all MBLC budget lines at FY2021 levels, with a small increase of \$5,000 to our agency's administration line:

MBLC Budget Lines in House 1 FY 2022

Line Item Number & Name	FY2021	FY2022
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners:	1,579,876	1,585,251
7000-9401 Regional Libraries Local Aid:	12,516,000	12,516,000
7000-9402 Talking Book Program Worcester:	482,264	482,264
7000-9406 Talking Book Program Watertown:	2,745,774	2,745,774
7000-9501 Public Libraries Local Aid:	12,000,000	12,000,000
7000-9506 Technology/Resource-Sharing:	4,386,770	4,386,770
7000-9508 MA Center for the Book:	225,000	225,000
TOTALS	33,935,684	33,941,058

The **FY22 Legislative Agenda** materials are now available on our website: <https://mbcl.state.ma.us/about-us/legislative-agenda.php>. Along with our FY22 budget request, the site includes information on the benefits of State Aid to Public Libraries (our primary budget focus), as well as fact sheets for each of our affiliates and partners that detail the work they have been doing during the pandemic.

Virtual Programming for Distance Learning Grants are one way the MBLC is using **CARES Act** funds to assist libraries. The purpose of these grants is to support increased public access to library virtual programs. Funds can be used to purchase equipment and supplies for library-created programming, pay virtual performers or presenters, or to purchase materials for developing remote learning kits. Libraries of all types were eligible to apply for funds ranging from \$1,500-3,500.

- 78 libraries applied from all over the state requesting nearly \$190,000 in funding for projects
- 20 libraries received \$54,900 in funding this round. The first grant round awarded \$71,261 to 26 libraries in July 2020.
- Trends in the applications included projects focused on screen-free educational activities for young children, opportunities to get outdoors, and meeting a growing interest in genealogy and local history.

The MBLC is providing MLS with \$300,000 in **CARES Act** funds to provide school libraries expanded access to eBook content to support and enhance in person and distanced learning. MLS will purchase individual eBook titles, eBook content sets, simultaneous use licenses, and licenses for high demand items on the **Overdrive Sora platform**. These funds will have an immediate impact on curriculum support as well as a lasting impact throughout the summer months giving school librarians, teachers and students increased access to K-12 eBook content.

FY2022 LSTA Grant Round Writing Workshops: Shelley Quezada and Lyndsay Forbes recently delivered 3 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Direct Grant writing workshops with a total attendance of 83 participants. Attendees represented libraries that submitted a letter of intent to apply for an LSTA FY22 Direct Grant. The workshops are designed to walk attendees through the application process while helping them to refine their grant ideas and concepts to create the strongest grant application possible.

This year's workshop highlighted the new application category of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). For the first time grant applicants will be scored on how well they demonstrate EDI awareness and program responsiveness in the context of their grant program.

Preservation Assessment Grants: The MBLC awarded \$33,600 in LSTA funds to eight libraries across the Commonwealth for formal assessments of their community memory collections LSTA. The Preservation Assessment Grant program awards \$4,200 to libraries of all types that successfully complete the eligibility requirements. The complete list of FY21 Preservation Assessment grant recipients is below, followed by a few highlights of this year's grant round:

Dedham Public Library
Longmeadow - Richard Salter Storrs Library
Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives
Tyringham Free Public Library
West Falmouth Library
Wilbraham Public Library
Dedham Public Library
Olin College of Engineering Library

Community collections at **West Falmouth Library** illustrate the town's long and evolving history. Documents in the collection include deeds, wills, journals, notebooks, land transfers, and business records dating from 1670 to 1970. Photographs date from the 1800s to 1980s. Smaller collections of distinction include oral histories (VHS, CD, and digital formats), local biographies, negatives, rare books, a 19th century whaling logbook, and a few pieces of fine and decorative arts. Archives Librarian Renee Voorhees and Library Director Jessica O'Connor note that West Falmouth's diverse groups of people with shared histories are vital connections to a past that continues to resonate in the present.

Tyringham Free Public Library will identify the immediate preservation needs of their historic collections and develop a list of preservation priorities that will align with their internal and town-wide strategic plans. The library preserves and shares a large collection of photographs, from daguerreotypes and ambrotypes from the mid-1800s to recent prints and slides depicting the town's 250th anniversary celebration in 1989. The library also has hundreds of oral history interviews on cassette tapes. The textile collection includes an 1829 sampler by a 13-year old youth, a nightgown from 1870, and a beloved quilt handmade by local women toward the end of the 1990s.

The **Dedham Public Library** has preserved extensive records from its earliest days of European colonization, dating back almost 400 years. The collections, which include maps, deeds, manuscripts, printed works, photographs, and more, have been used and cited in academic and popular literature for many years, demonstrating their importance to scholars of North American history as well as local residents. The library will use the grant to identify archival collections at potential risk of immediate damage, identify further ways to mitigate collection risks, and to support increased outreach with the collections to engage all members of the diverse community.

In Evan Knight's position as Board Member of the **Mass Archives Advisory Commission** he is serving on the planning group for the 2021 Veteran's Heritage grants (\$200,000 total). These state funds were not expected so planning has been fast paced. The grant announcement and application can be found here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcshrab/shrabidx.htm>).

Evan has also been co-leading a working group on improving **State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB)** communications, including updating the website to be easier to navigate and so that it includes more grant program information.

Also, Evan would also like to mention that **COSTEP MA** (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness) is running a self-directed and collaborative disaster-response training on the Incident Command System (ICS) that specifies formal methods of communication of responders in any emergency. Our emergency response partners in COSTEP *always* recommend that administrators and response staff of any organization familiarize themselves with ICS. This is a great opportunity for municipal libraries and staff to become familiar with ICS. For more information: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/costepma/index.php/2020/11/30/learn-with-costep-a-study-group-to-apply-the-incident-command-system-ics-to-your-cultural-institution/>

Maura Deedy has launched the **Spring 2021 Friends Sharing with Friends Coffee Hours**. The first session will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 am to talk about Library Giving Day (Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495526>). What is Library Giving Day? "Library Giving Day started as an idea generated by the Seattle Public Library Foundation. The concept was to create a national day of giving that public libraries would rally around and that the public would embrace." Learn more about: <https://librarygivingday.org/>

The full schedule of Friends Sharing with Friends coffee hours is below. Topics will be shared as they are scheduled.

- Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495526>
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM
Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495529>
- Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495531>
- Thursday, May 13, 2021 6:00 PM
Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495541>
- Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 3:00 PM
Register: <https://mblc.libcal.com/event/7495544>

Paul Kissman has been working with the **Social Law Library** and the **Massachusetts Trial Court Libraries** to hold the *Providing Access to Justice for Public Library Patrons: Navigating the statewide Trial Court Law Libraries & Court Service Centers* webinar on Wednesday February 10th. Presenters include Kathleen Ludwig, Head Law Librarian, Franklin Law Library and Mary G. Klaes, Esq., Manager, Greenfield Court Service Center. With reference to real-life situations, their webinar will show how the statewide network of Law Libraries and Court Service Centers can support your efforts to provide "access to justice" for the patrons who depend on your public library for useful resources, reference advice and referrals. At last check over 69 people have signed up. For more information and to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uRiFnir-Q_261nM-SW0ATA

MLS Update to MLA

February 2021

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director

Member Connections

Site visits

In person site visits will continue to be suspended for the next couple of months, due to the pandemic. Virtual engagements with members are still being conducted.

MLS Live! Livestream

Beginning in January 2021, I will be piloting a new opportunity to connect with our members virtually. The purpose of this new series is to strengthen connections with our members and partners in our new virtual work environment. This series will offer attendees the opportunity to learn about and engage with MLS.

MLS Live Description.

On the last Tuesday of the month, join MLS Executive Director Sarah Sogigian and Membership Manager Amanda Fauver on MLS Live as we discuss a different MLS related topic each month.

Sessions will be hosted on Zoom and recorded; we invite you to participate by attending the live session or watch the recording on your own time. Our first session will be held on Tuesday, January 26 from 11-11:30 AM. Sarah will discuss our plans for 2021, including a review of our new Action Plan, in support of our [Strategic Plan](#). This series connects to our Action Plan S.I.1, G.1

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions about these topics either using the chat feature in Zoom or by emailing sarah@masslibsystem.org in advance of the session (please note: this session will be [recorded](#)). Attendees will be muted to preserve audio quality).

Monthly Newsletter

Amanda Fauver, Membership/BiblioTemps® Manager has relaunched our monthly newsletter. Newsletters are sent out via our email list and posted on our [MLS News Blog](#). This project connects to our Action Plan S.I.1, G.1

New and Returning Members

New Librarians/members
Monthly Update - December 2020

Librarian Name	Library	Town/City	Email
Jason Homer	Worcester Public Library	Worcester	jhomer@mywpl.org
Wally Keniston	Franklin County Technical School, Library Media C	Turners Falls	wkeniston@fcts.us
Patricia Harding	Sarah Greenwood K-8 School	Dorchester	pharding@bostonpublicschools.org
Erica Hout, Acting Dir.	Boylston Public Library	Boylston	ehout@cwmar.org
Karen Kohr	Washington Irving Middle School	Boston	kkohr@bostonpublicschools.org
Christina Hefler	Up Academy of Dorchester	Dorchester	cheffler@upacademydorchester.org

Staff Celebrations

2020 marked MLS' 10th birthday, and we recognize 3 current staff members who have contributed to our success since Day 1:

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director
Scott Kehoe, Library Resources Director
Shirley MacLean, Members Services/Office Support

We also recognize Betsy Meaden, Business and HR Director, who celebrates 5 years with MLS in 2020.

Consulting and Training Report

We have finished our Fall 2020 training season and are preparing for Spring 2021, which will begin in late February / early March. All trainings will be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are the trainings we offered in December, and what's coming up in January:

December 2020 Learning Opportunities

- Webinars
 - Libraries and their Critical Role Serving Immigrant Communities (12/1/20)
 - Special Collections in Smaller Libraries Series: Free Programs & Resources You Should Know About (12/14/20)
- Virtual Check-Ins
 - Youth Services (12/3/20)
 - Health Sciences and Special Libraries (12/11/20)
 - Reference & User Services (12/15/20)
 - Marketing (12/17/20)
- Career Resource Week
 - Massachusetts Employment Landscape and Career Resources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (12/7/20)
 - Resources and Services from the Kirstein Business Library & Information Center (12/8/20)
 - MA Wage & Hour Laws/Workers' Rights (12/9/20)
 - Peterson's Career Prep and MassHire Career Information System (12/10/20)
 - Virtual Career Programs and Services for Your Community (12/11/20)

January 2021 Learning Opportunities

- Virtual Check-Ins
 - Youth Services (1/7/20)
 - Reference & User Services (1/13/20)
 - Health Sciences and Special Libraries (1/14/20)
 - Marketing (1/22/20)

Hold the Date!

April Mazza and Christi Farrar are working with the Connecticut State Library and the Rhode Island Office of Library & Information Services to host the Tri-State Summer Summit on February 10 (afternoon) and 11 (all day). This virtual event will provide summer library program planners a forum to share and learn new things, get inspired, and plan for summer!

LibGuides

In December, the most viewed LibGuide was:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Massachusetts Libraries](#): this LibGuide received 2,554 views in December. This guide has been viewed 110,962 times since it was created in March. Aside from the home page, the top viewed pages in December were:
 - What Your Library Can Do Remotely – 696 views
 - Reopening Your Library – 430 views
 - Online Library Training – 149 views

Vimeo Recordings

We currently have 288 recorded webinars and videos published on our [Vimeo channel](#). During the month of December, we had 725 views and 128 finishes.

Blog Posts

Michelle Eberle wrote a number of blog posts during the last couple of months of 2020, including the following:

- Climate Prep Week 2020 Recap (121 views)
- Civic Engagement at the Athol Public Library (272 views)
- HandholdMA.org: A New Website Helping Massachusetts Families (261 views)
- Announcing: Climate Prep Week 2020 Drawing Contest Winners (334 views)
- Eaglebrook School Library Partners with Books through Bars (574 views)
- Civic Engagement at the South Hadley Public Library (310 views)

Resource Sharing Report

As always, my appreciation to the Resource Sharing and IT staff for its good grace and patience with our membership, and each other, during the pandemic. I am proud to say that Resource Sharing staff has continued to adjust to their new normal. The following statistics and commentary below illustrate the continued hard work of the Library Resources staff.

Member Interactions / Support requests (email, phone):

2020 vs 2019: 1 March – 31 December

<i>Support Area:</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Interlibrary Loan	4,019	6,953
Commonwealth eBooks	1,169	443
State-wide Databases	322	300
MassCat	549	252

- **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** – December is now the fifth month of the ILL team physically processing items at the Marlborough office. This month, the ILL team, led by Laura Bogart, held a successful online “check in” for library staff as well as a WorldCat.org webinar. These have been well attended and we’ve received many thank you’s from the library staff who have attended. After the new year, we are planning on “check ins” and additional trainings on Clio and WorldCat.org, the primary online resources used by member libraries to process ILL requests. December is only the third full month of Commonwealth Catalog being online. This impacts MLS ILL workload as it is the major tool in our mediated ILL operations requesting and lending and

returning items to MLS member libraries. As stated since the spring, ILL activity is up and down in fits and starts in Mass., the United States, and internationally. As always, even with fewer requests from MLS members, ILL staff are busier than ever attempting to find lenders in state and nationally, while tracking down items sent out and returned. MLS libraries continue to be exceedingly gracious with their compliments to ILL staff. With the resurgence of the pandemic the past two months, we are expecting that there will be an increase to the number of lenders unable to participate in ILL nationally and in MA, but we will continue work with our member libraries to fill their requests.

- **Commonwealth eBooks (CEC)** – December was a relatively calm month for CEC, but as evidenced by the above statistics, and during the whole pandemic, unprecedented activity K-12 school activity for CEC as well as continued high ebook circulation rates. The CEC check-out rate for the entire collection continues to be well over 60%. The bottlenecks getting new members set up with OverDrive are lessening. Tressa Santillo, Electronic Resources Coordinator, continues to do a tremendous job navigating on behalf of our members with OverDrive, who is also in process of transitioning an account manager to the MLS.
- **Databases** – Database support requests continues to decline compared to last fall, although a downtick in activity is not unusual in the late fall. Of note, Tressa Santillo, Electronic Resources Coordinator, and Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist (MBLC) began holding online feedback sessions with academic, K-12 schools, and public library members. And are finding, not surprisingly, that different library types have different view and wishes for future database purchases. This outreach effort will continue throughout the coming year. The current database contract ends in FY22, June 30, 2022.
- **MassCat** –December has been a quieter month for MassCat support, a welcome respite. I continue to train Alison DeMers, Resource Sharing Librarian, to assist in MassCat member support. I have also enlisted the Resource Sharing staff in a project to update and revamp the MassCat training guides, a project we hope to complete by the early spring. Twenty-four members continue to share resources in-network, ten members in ComCat. Of returning K-12 schools, 12 of 28 are sharing in-network.

Resource Sharing Webinars in Response to COVID-19 Closings

In response to the COVID19 Resource Sharing have been working to provide webinars for our member libraries. Tressa Santillo, is working with Gale Cengage and OverDrive, while Laura Bogart and Alison DeMers are providing webinars related to Mediated ILL services.

Dec. 2

Feedback Session on Statewide Databases for K-12 Schools

Dec. 7

Virtual Check-In: ILL Library Staff Social

Dec. 8

Feedback Session on Statewide Databases for K-12 Schools

Dec. 14

Mediated ILL: WorldCat.org Webinar

Dec. 16

Simplify Student Research with Gale

Find future offerings and register here: <https://calendar.masslibsystem.org/>

Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA)

Update to MLA Executive Board – February 2021

MSLA has joined MLA in the **EveryLibrary advocacy project** to plan ongoing advocacy work for MA libraries. We look forward to enhancing the outreach for libraries in 2021.

We were pleased the Georgina Trebbe, Advocacy CoChair, has been invited to the **MBLC statewide PR Committee**. She is also part of the Advocacy Action Committee of the MLA Legislative Committee.

MSLA has announced its [Annual Conference](#) (virtual), March 21-22, 2021

“School Librarians at the Crossroad: Be the Hero of Your Journey,” with keynotes by:

1. Gholdy Muhammad, Educator and author of Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy
2. Jarrett Krosoczka, Author/Illustrator of the Lunch Lady series,
3. Jennisen Lucas, AASL President

[MSLA's 2021 Awards](#) were announced (see list below).

The Next Board virtual meeting is February 10, 2021. I will pass on any news after the meeting.

at which time MSLA will be making a decision on partnering with the MLA Legislative Committee to work with EveryLibrary on an advocacy campaign.

Contacts:

- Laura Luker, President, luker.laura@gmail.com
- Emily Kristofek, Office Manager/Event Planner - emilykristo@gmail.com
- Greg Pronevitz, Director of Outreach - greg@pronevitzconsulting.com

Massachusetts School Library Association

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<https://www.maschoollibraries.org/>

MSLA Awards

* [2021 Award Descriptions](#)

* [MSLA Awards Archives](#)

*Organized by year and award,
plus pictures*

Congratulations to the 2021 Award Recipients

*Awards Ceremony will be during the
Virtual 2021 MSLA Conference, March 21-22, 2021*

2021 JUDI PARADIS ACTION GRANT:

Judi Paradis
Memorial Grant
Program



[Learn more and DONATE](#)

Jennifer Edwards

Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School

*Supports library programming
making a positive impact
on a library program and/or
school culture.*

2021 KATHERINE LOWE SCHOOL LIBRARY CHAMPION: *Honors public figures demonstrating a belief in school libraries.*

Dr. Carol Gordon

Gordon & Associates Consulting

2021 JOAN GALLAGHER LEGISLATOR AWARD:

Recognizes a Massachusetts legislator demonstrating belief in the value of school libraries.

Annisssa Essaibi-George

Boston City Council

2021 SERVICE AWARD: *Recognizes school librarian dedication at state/national level.*

Patsy Divver

Millis Middle-High School

Carrie Tucker

E. Bridgewater Jr.-Sr. High School

2021 M.S.L.A. (MA Super Librarian Award): *Recognizes school library program excellence.*

Liz Phipps Soeiro

Cambridgeport School

Alix Woznik

Beverly Middle School

2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARD: *Honors new school librarians making an impact on student learning.*

Kristina Johnson

Medford Public Schools

Maureen Riordan

Newton Public Schools

Iris Santana

UP Acad Holland, Boston PS

2021 ELLEN BERNE PATHFINDER: *Celebrates innovative school library programming.*

Carrie Mathias

[Silver Lake Regional High School](#)



NELA Representative Report

Prepared for MLA Executive Board Meeting of February 12, 2021

The NELA Executive Board met via ZOOM on January 22, 2021.

- Due to the uncertainties of the Pandemic, NELA is planning to postpone NELS again this year. As a result, they are working on the idea of developing an on-line learning cohort for experienced leaders in 2021. More information will be forthcoming
- NELA is looking at some long-term fundraising efforts over the next few years to build up the association's educational assistance and endowment funds.
- NELA just closed out its fiscal year, with a \$30,000 shortfall, which was not as bad as expected. Fortunately NELA has stabilization funds and those were allocated to ensure the Association's operations in the coming year.
- The NELA Section Conferences taking place this Spring include:
 - ITS (Information Technology Section) Conference on February 24th 2021 A varied program with a focus on remote programs and services that are being used during the Pandemic
 - NETSL (NE Tech Services Librarians) Conference on April 16th 2021 Theme: Moving Forward: Coping with New Realities in Technical Services
- The NELA Intellectual Freedom Committee is considering putting together a Stand-alone program on Social Media and the Current Climate of Restrictions. The Committee would welcome ideas and planning participation from State Association IF groups.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista I. McLeod,

NELA Representative