## Abstract

The University of Maine and its partners, the University of Southern Maine, Colby College, Bates College, Bowdoin College, Bangor Public Library, Portland Public Library, Maine State Library, and Maine InfoNet, propose a three year demonstration project, the Maine Shared Collections Strategy (MSCS).

Libraries are facing fundamental changes in user demands for new services and spaces to support the use of digital collections, and new opportunities to offer digital content through large scale e-book collections such as Google Books and the Open Content Alliance. Simultaneously, libraries feel pressures to responsibly steward sizeable, historic print collections. These challenges, together with scarce funding to build new stacks and the increasing cost of housing legacy print collections require libraries to rethink management of print collections and delivery of e-book collections to their users. Print on demand services and delivery of e-book content provide opportunities to plan for managing legacy print collections and delivery of content in new ways. These tasks exceed the capacity of any single library or organization. The MSCS is a statewide project among all the major libraries in Maine to coordinate the management of legacy print collections in a way that takes advantage of these emerging opportunities and is sustainable in the long run.

Taken together, the eight partner libraries hold four million volumes—the vast majority of Maine's print collections. The ninth partner, Maine InfoNet, is the state-wide multi-type library consortium that provides a robust digital technology infrastructure, a shared library catalog, and services for electronic resources that enable delivery of collections in physical and electronic formats. Building on similar integrated library system software, established governance structures, longstanding resource sharing practice, and a demonstrated trust between partners, this three-year demonstration project will define a strategy for managing legacy print collections and will design and test a print on demand (POD) and e-book on demand (EOD) service for available digital collections from the Open Content Alliance and Google Books.

This Maine Shared Collections Strategy project will develop a state-wide print collection management strategy and POD and EOD service which will include data-driven collaborative models for collection management, collection de-accessioning and collection storage; agreements regarding ownership and management of joint collections; protocols for requesting stored materials; protocols and policies for requesting and delivering print on demand services; and a cost model for delivering POD and EOD. As a part of a broad information dissemination effort, a website with key planning documents, generic memoranda of understanding, data models, protocols and policies, and the final strategy will be published and made freely available to the international library community, as will the formal project report.

This demonstration project will be an important element in the emerging national effort to manage legacy print collections. It will significantly advance the understanding of how to manage the relationship among large scale digital collections and established print collections. It will provide a concrete example of statewide multi-type collaboration that can serve as a model for other groups wishing to collaboratively manage their print collections.