Automated Resource Sharing Networks

Building a stronger Commonwealth: **one person at a time**

7000-9506

The 9 Automated Resource Sharing Networks in Massachusetts provide libraries with technology, digital content, support 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 alone. Resource sharing network management systems provide:

• Online library catalogs with requesting and tracking ability and verification of user credentials for access to electronic resources, an undertaking which would be out of reach for a single library.

• Interlibrary lending through the Commonwealth Catalog gives residents statewide access to materials that their home network might not own.

• Instant online library card registration for all member libraries.

Digital Content

Networks play an important role in providing statewide access to digital content, such as:

• eBooks, audiobooks, streaming movies and more that can be borrowed across libraries in 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 helps Networks and their member libraries as they try to keep pace with patron demand by supporting the purchasing new and additional titles that can be borrowed by any Massachusetts resident with a library card.

Support for Libraries

Access to Network membership is critically important for libraries. Libraries depend on Networks for technology that helps them run everyday operations. These operations include:

• Telecommunications and internet access through their Network.

• Ongoing support and training for library staff to librarians to help day-to-day operations run smoothly.

• Small Libraries in Networks (SLIN) grants help libraries in municipalities with populations under 10,000 – nearly one half of public libraries in the Commonwealth – join and receive the many benefits of network membership for their local library users.

• Instant online library card registration for all member libraries

Massachusetts Libraries
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS