

## XVI. Professional Groups

### Maine



**MASL - Maine Association of School Libraries** <http://www.maslibraries.org/>

MASL was formed in 1974 with the former title MEMA (Maine Educational Media Association). MASL's goal is that all school community members understand, value and support effective school library programs.

Membership in MASL offers:

- **SUPPORT** in the form of curriculum materials
- **A VOICE AND A VOTE** in Association business
- **REDUCED RATES** at conferences and workshops
- **NEWS** of state, regional and national library media trends and events
- **GUIDELINES** to use in development of policies, program and facilities
- **OPPORTUNITIES** to share goals, challenges and successes with others working in the library profession
- **ACCESS** to leaders in the library media field who participate as conference speakers and workshop leaders.



### **Maine Regional Library System**

The Maine Regional Library System was created to improve library service for the citizens of Maine. Membership consists of public, school, academic, and special libraries. Each of Maine's three library districts, Northeastern, Central, and Southern hosts an Area Reference and Resource Center. They are located at the Bangor (NMLD) and Portland (SMLD) public libraries and the Maine State Library in Augusta (CMLD). Each district includes a District Council and District Consultant.

Membership benefits include:

- Bindery cooperative
- Consultant services
- Continuing education (workshops and courses are offered for library staff, trustees, and Friends)
- Free library cards for district residents
- Interlibrary loan service

[www.maslibraries.org](http://www.maslibraries.org)



- Newsletters and communications
- Professional collection that may be borrowed by contacting the regional consultant
- Purchasing cooperative (SCOOP) (see details later)
- Reference and information services
- Special conferences

For information and assistance, contact your regional consultant at: <http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/districts>

*Or:*

**CMLD**

Consultant: Stephanie Zurinski

Administrative Assistant: Cheryl Ramsay

Location: Maine State Library

Address: 64 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0064

Telephone: (207) 287-5620, 1-800-322-8899

[Stephanie.zurinski@maine.gov](mailto:Stephanie.zurinski@maine.gov)

**NMLD**

Consultant: Vacant

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Melvin

Location: Bangor Public Library

Address: 145 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

Telephone: (207) 947-8336, 1-800-427-8336

[jennym@bpl.me.us](mailto:jennym@bpl.me.us)

**SMLD**

Consultant: Deborah Clark

Administrative Assistant: Elaine Bissonnette

Location: Portland Public Library

Address: 5 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101

Telephone: (207) 871-1766

[Deborah.clark@maine.gov](mailto:Deborah.clark@maine.gov)



Sherry Wyman

School Library/Technology Integration Coordinator

Department of Education

23 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

[207-624-6897](tel:207-624-6897)

[sherry.wyman@maine.gov](mailto:sherry.wyman@maine.gov)

Sherry is an invaluable resource for school library media personnel. She can guide in the certification process and recommend professional development towards that end. Sherry will make school visits and recommendations. Sherry is also the technology plan approver for Maine public schools as well as the e-rate coordinator for schools.



**Maine Department of Education** <http://maine.gov/education/>

Maine Department of Education website information of special interest to school libraries:

- Grants: <http://maine.gov/education/grantlist.htm>
- Center for Inquiry on Literacy: <http://www.maine.gov/education/cil/cil.htm>
- Maine Learning Results <http://www.maine.gov/education/standards.htm>
- Teacher Certification <http://www.maine.gov/education/cert/index.html>
- Educational Technician Authorization <http://www.maine.gov/doe/cert/initial/edtech/>
- Maine Family Literacy Initiative <http://www.maine.gov/education/meflit/homepage.htm>



**MLA – Maine Library Association** <http://www.mainelibraries.org/>

The objective of the Maine Library Association is to promote and enhance the value of libraries and librarianship, to foster cooperation among those who work in and for libraries, and to provide leadership in ensuring that information is accessible to all citizens via their libraries. The Council may adopt and publicize positions on issues and legislation affecting libraries. This organization offers members opportunities to do the following:

- **Advocate!** MLA actively supports legislation affecting all types of libraries.
- **Network!** MLA offers you opportunities to meet fellow librarians, exchange ideas and establish contacts with your peers.
- **Get discounts!** MLA members receive discounts on workshops and conference fees (excluding Business Memberships)
- **Get a grant or loan!** [Financial assistance](#) is available for members to defray conference and continuing education costs.
- **Get informed!** MLA members receive the Association's [MLA-to-Z](#) online newsletter, flyers on pending library legislation, and information materials produced by MLA sections.
- **Get experience!** MLA members can gain leadership experience as active members in Executive Council, Committee and Section activities, and free membership in one MLA section included in the annual dues.

**Vote!** MLA members have a vote on Association matters.



**MSL – Maine State Library** <http://maine.gov/msl/>

Maine State Library  
64 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0064

**General Information:** [www.maine.gov/msl/contact.htm](http://www.maine.gov/msl/contact.htm)

**Circulation Desk:** Tel: (207) 287-5600 Fax: (207) 287-5615

**Reference Desk:** [reference.desk@maine.gov](mailto:reference.desk@maine.gov) Tel: (207)287-5608

**Interlibrary loan:** [interlibrary.loan@maine.gov](mailto:interlibrary.loan@maine.gov) Tel: (207) 287-5641

**Outreach Services** (large print, Braille and talking books) Tel: 1-800-762-7106

**Mission:** The purpose of the Maine State Library is to lead in efforts that will provide, broaden, and improve access to information and library services regardless of location of residency. To accomplish this effort the Maine State Library is divided into two divisions: Reader and Information Services and Library Development.

**History:** In 1836 Maine Legislature authorized the purchase of books and the Maine State Library began to grow. Along with the State archives and the State museum, the State Library resides in the Cultural Building, located at the State House complex in Augusta. It is unique in having a physical presence and for its combination of services for the public and for librarians, all within the same organization. The State Library, serving all citizens and visitors, provides access to its information, services, and policies in order to meet educational, informational, recreational and cultural needs.

The State Library is addressing changes in its traditional role under an older economy by focusing on new roles demanded by the present changing economy. No longer is the role of librarians to just gather and select information but instead to facilitate, organize, and access information.



**ACTEM - Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine** <http://www.actem.org/>

The mission of ACTEM is to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology. Any Maine educator interested in or having responsibility for computer technology in K-12 education may join for \$10 annually.

ACTEM offers:

- Four meetings per year
- Price savings on software purchases for schools and individual members (not all listings apply)
- A collective voice in issues dealing with certification, endorsements, etc.
- MAINEducation Technology annual conference in October
- Advanced full-day training on applications of interest
- Electronic Educator Newsletter (quarterly)
- Reimbursement of up to \$400 annually in technology-related professional development not covered by the district
- A Listserv and ACTEMShare NING

Website at [WWW.actem.org](http://www.actem.org) hosting Project SEED work, a NoteShare Server open to all, recent news, conference information, software lists, etc.



**Maine Reading Association** <http://www.mainereading.org/>

The Mission of the Maine Reading Association is to facilitate opportunities for all persons to be lifelong learners who use literacy for a variety of purposes; to encourage professional growth and literacy development through current research and information; and to support a lifetime love of reading and writing.

The Maine Reading Association co-sponsors the Maine Student Book Award.  
(<http://www.windham.lib.me.us/msba.htm>)

The Maine Reading Association hosts regularly-scheduled evening board meetings, open to the MRA membership, with a featured speaker/activity. Twice a year, the Maine Reading Association offers a day-long workshop or mini-conference on a topic of interest. These workshops draw a larger audience of MRA members and guests and usually feature a nationally-known speaker. The calendar and information about the events scheduled can be found on the website.



Maine's Comprehensive State Literacy Plan

**Literacy for ME** [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)

*Literacy for ME* unifies the efforts of several state agencies and community groups as well as Maine's public schools to provide direction and support to improve literacy achievement. Increasing demands for a variety of literacy skills and rapidly changing technology that affects how we work and how we communicate have combined to highlight the need to modify our perceptions of literacy, literacy instruction and the role of literacy in our daily lives.

## New England



### **New England School Library Association (NESLA)**

**(formerly NEEMA – New England Educational Media Association)**

<http://www.neema.org/>

NEEMA is the regional professional association dedicated to the improvement of instruction through the effective utilization of school library media services media and technology applications. For over 75 years, NEEMA has represented school library media professionals through activities and networking efforts to develop and polish the leadership skills, professional representation, and informational awareness of the membership. The Board of Directors consists of Departments of Education as well as professional leaders of the region. An annual conference program and Leadership Program are offered in conjunction with the various regional state association conferences.



### **NELA – New England Library Association**

<http://www.nelib.org/>

The New England Library Association is a regional organization initially chartered in 1963. It seeks to promote library service to the people of New England. Its objectives are to plan and support regional activities, to encourage the exchange of ideas, to cooperate with regional and national agencies having related interests, and to stimulate library-related research in the region.

NELA represents a wide range of library-related interests and encourages any individual, organization or institution interested in the objectives of the association to become a member. Members receive preferred rates at NELA sponsored conferences and workshops and a free subscription to New England Libraries, a newsletter that provides both an overview of activities around the region and timely in-depth interviews. Personal members have voting privileges and are eligible for continuing education grants.

NELA offers:

- Networking opportunities with a cross section of librarians around New England
- An annual conference with vibrant workshops and vendor exhibitions
- NELLs, the New England Library Leadership Symposium, aimed at building leaders
- Financial assistance for graduate MLS programs and continuing education opportunities of all kinds.

## National

### **ALA**

**American Library Association** [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

The [mission](#) of ALA is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information. ALA offers professional services and publications to members and nonmembers, including online news stories from [American Libraries](#) and analysis of crucial issues from the [Washington Office](#).

ALA offers:

- [Division conferences and forums, symposiums, training, institutes, workshops, and distance learning/e-learning classes.](#)
- Membership benefits
- American Libraries magazine subscription
- AL Direct, a weekly email library newsletter
- Discounts on travel services, insurance, car rentals, e-learning courses

The [Toolkit for School Library Media Programs](#) is available at:  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/schoollibrary/FINAL\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/schoollibrary/FINAL_toolkit.pdf) .

### **AASL**

**American Association of School Librarians** <http://www.ala.org/aasl>

Mission: to advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library media field

AASL Membership benefits:

- Discounts on conference and institute fees
- Subscription to Knowledge Quest magazine
- AASL [Hotlinks](#), monthly email newsletter
- Eligibility for awards, grants, and scholarships
- E-mail news and discussion lists
- Access to AASL "Members Only" Web content
- Subscription to [American Libraries](#) magazine



## **YALSA** Young Adult Library Services Association [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.cfm)

The mission of the Young Adult Library Services Association is to advocate, promote and strengthen service to young adults as part of the continuum of total library service, and to support those who provide service to this population. The following concerns and activities are interdependent in fulfilling the goal of YALSA:

### *The Young Adult Library Services Association:*

- Advocates the young adult's right to free and equal access to materials and services, and assists librarians in handling problems of such access.
- Evaluates and promotes materials of interest to adolescents through special services, programs and publications, except for those materials designed specifically for curriculum use.
- Identifies research needs related to young adult service and communicates those needs to the library academic community in order to activate research projects.
- Stimulates and promotes the development of librarians and other staff working with young adults through formal and continuing education.
- Stimulates and promotes the expansion of young adult service among professional associations and agencies at all levels.
- Represents the interests of librarians and staff working with young adults to all relevant agencies, governmental or private, and industries that serve young adults as clients or consumers.
- Creates and maintains communication links with other units of ALA whose developments affect service to young adults.