

Maryland State Library Agency 2023 Annual Report



Maryland
State Library
Agency

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Mission

The mission of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is to provide leadership and consultation in technology, training, marketing, funding, resource sharing, research, and planning so that Maryland libraries can fulfill their missions now and in the future for the people of Maryland.

Message from the Maryland State Librarian

Irene Padilla



Irene Padilla, Maryland State Librarian

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) celebrated its sixth year as an independent agency! This milestone year has been a significant one for the agency and for Maryland libraries. MSLA supports innovative ways to connect libraries to the communities they serve and provides for exceptional customer experiences at any of the 192 branches or 22 mobile libraries throughout the state.

Training

MSLA hosted many statewide trainings, including:

- The Futures Conference was a two-day, high-energy event to explore ideas and strategies for meeting the challenges of creating future-ready libraries.
- The Statewide Blueprint encourages shared understandings of, and collaborations on, non-library trends shaping the future of public library services in the state.
- The Hatchlings Early Literacy program teaches both expectant and newborn families about the importance and value of daily verbal engagement with their babies.
- The Planning Sensory Friendly Storytimes program teaches library staff about the importance and value of sensory story times for all children.

Accessibility

MSLA addresses the need to provide equitable services across the state, including:

- The National Library Service (NLS) began a Braille on Demand program that allows patrons to have one book per month printed in braille to keep.
- Fusion accessibility software is now available on public and staff computers at library branches across Maryland.
- MSLA is a partner with the University of Maryland's Extension School to address digital literacy and digital navigation needs across the state.

Facilities

MSLA is proud to announce Capital Grants Projects that were completed this year:

- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held September 23, 2022, for the grand opening of Allegany County's expanded and renovated LaVale Branch.
- Queen Anne's County Library's Kent Island renovation is complete!

Funding

MSLA administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries, including:

- The FY 2024 Operating Budget includes additional state funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries – Aid to Education program and the State Library Resource Center.
- The Capital Budget was approved with a 54% supplemental funding increase to cover cost overruns on current projects.
- The FY 2024 legislative appropriations included increases to funding for the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, the Deaf Culture Digital Library and the Enoch Pratt Free Library.
- The FY 2024 final state aid calculations provided increases for public libraries, the State Library Resource Center, and the Regional Resource Centers.
- The federal funding allotment to Maryland's Library Services and Technology Act budget increased by 7.36%.

Legislative

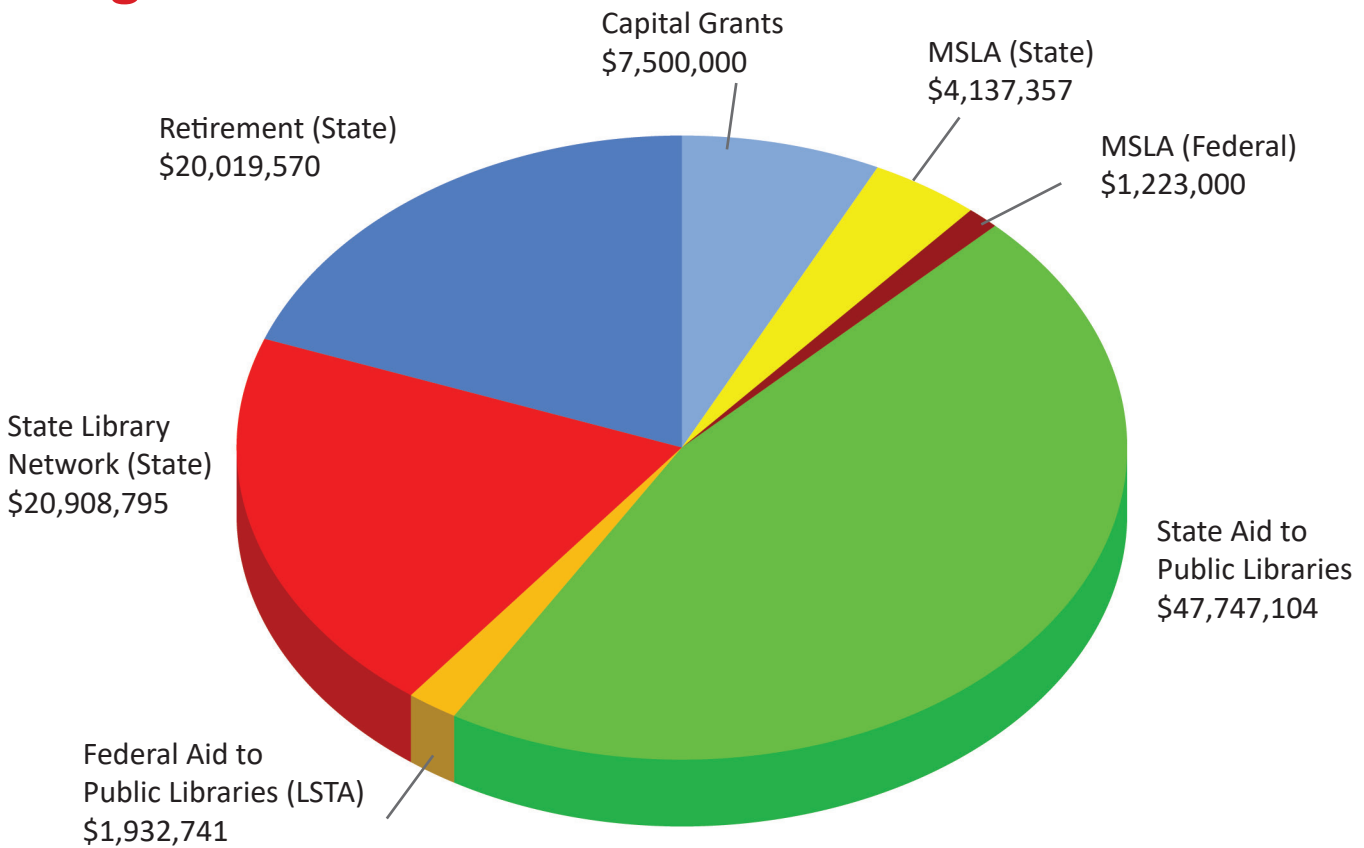
The following bills were passed by the Maryland State Legislature and signed by the Governor:

- HB 243/SB 300: Young Readers Program Expansion Act of 2023
- HB 276/SB 205: Education - Libraries - Funding
- HB 1115/SB 831: Libraries - Regional Resource Centers - Governance
- SB 846: Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement Revision

Leadership

- John Owen was elected NLS Northern Conference Chair
- Laura Hicks was named a Co-chair of the AASL Standards committee
- Mary Rayme was selected by IMLS as a Mentor for LSTA Grants coordinators

Budget 2023



The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources and programs and to provide excellent customer service. MSLA Headquarters and the Public Libraries and State Networking Branch funding includes a combination of state and federal funds. State funds support the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library, and Maryland’s public libraries. These funds also support the State Library Network, a consortium composed of the State Library Resource Center and three regional libraries (the Eastern Shore Regional Library, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, and the Western Maryland Regional Library), as well as programs to facilitate interlibrary loan and the Library Associates Training Institute. In addition, the Enoch Pratt Free Library receives supplemental state funding for increased operating hours.



\$1.8M in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds were distributed to public libraries to support staff development, digital equity, community collaboration, infrastructure, and lifelong learning.

Capital Grants

Maryland's County Public Library Capital Grants Program mandates that \$7.5 million be included in the state budget every year for the renovation, expansion, and construction of public library facilities. Goals of the program include geographic diversity in the distribution of awards and a wealth-based match formula to encourage local jurisdictions to fund urgent and necessary public library development across the state. Since FY 2008, \$82,325,000 has been authorized, which has generated an estimated \$370,000,000 in local matching funds. This program has funded not only important renovations but also opened an astounding 19 new libraries. Three new state-of-the-art library facilities are currently underway in Anne Arundel (Riviera Beach), Calvert (Twin Beaches), and Frederick (Middletown) counties with support from the state.



Grand opening of the LaVale Library of the Allegany County Library System



The new Northeast Library is part of the Cecil County Public Library system.

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch

The Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB) provides technical assistance and direction to improve public library services across the state. PLSNB supports staff development activities and administers federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to support programs and initiatives in libraries statewide.



This recent graduating class of the Library Associates Training Institute (LATI) is from Howard County Library System. Lead by experienced professionals, the LATI program prepares library workers statewide to provide excellent customer service and is operated under the guidance of the Public Library and State Networking Branch within MSLA.

PLSNB Statistics



Continuing Education Programs

Number of Events

73



Total Attendance

at Events

2,630

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

The Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP) serves eligible Marylanders with free access to books and magazines in customized audiobook cartridges, printed braille, electronic braille, and large print formats. LBDP also assists college students in obtaining accessible textbooks, teaches patrons to use assistive technology, and hosts programs and events.



Visitors get ready to go inside Nile the 40-foot inflatable humpback whale during the Whalemobile program in August 2022

Collection & Circulation

- The Books on Demand conversion ensured that audiobook patrons have access to personalized cartridges with multiple titles on them. This led to a 31.1% increase in borrowed items.
- 290 LBDP-produced books are now available on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, which allows access to materials in both braille and audio formats.
- LBDP distributed 201 refreshable braille e-readers, giving patrons access to digital braille files. This led to a 300% increase in borrowed braille books.

Library Events & Programs

- The LBDP-produced podcasts received over 1,016 listens.
- 1,029 patrons attended over 373 programs, assistive technology classes, and events held both on and off site.

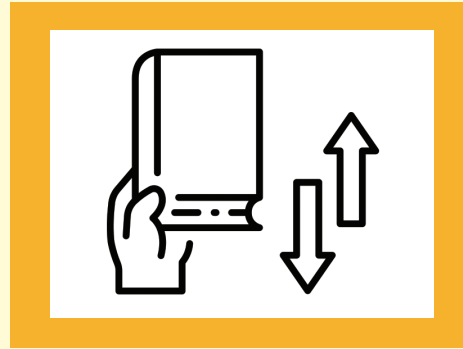
Maryland Accessible Textbook (MAT) Program

- This year, MAT served 114 college and university students in Maryland.
- MAT converted 1,319 textbook and Open Educational Resources chapters for those students.

Public Library Statistics



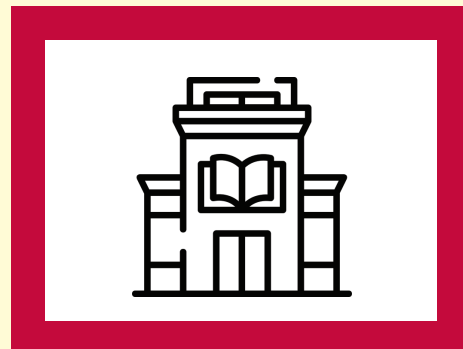
Library Cards
3.5M



Items Borrowed
47M+



Library Event Attendees
1M+



Library Visits
12.3M



Questioned Answered
3.5M



Library Funding
\$300M+

Note: Latest available data is from FY2022.

New LSTA Strategic Plan

MSLA worked with vested partners and community members to develop a vision for how the Agency will support public libraries for the next five years with funds from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). MSLA will provide leadership, grants, resources, and training opportunities to support the three themes that emerged:

1

GOAL 1: Inclusive, Responsive, and Connected Institutions.

Enhance the structural capacity of libraries to foster new connections and to open up new opportunities to sustain and strengthen their communities.

2

GOAL 2: Resilient and Engaged Library Staff.

Strengthen libraries' institutional capacity to foster a strong and innovative workforce.

3

GOAL 3: Informed and Thriving Marylanders.

Help libraries improve equitable access to information and provide direct service for all Marylanders.

Help libraries develop lifelong learning opportunities in order to enhance Marylanders' formal education and general knowledge and skills.



Spotlight On: The Hatchlings Program



The Hatchlings program 'In the Nest' at Carroll County Public Library.

The Hatchlings Early Literacy program teaches both expectant and newborn families about the importance of daily reading, talking, and singing with their babies to lay a solid foundation for early literacy and strong family bonding. Four Maryland public library systems piloted the Hatchlings program in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, in partnership with a Judy Center in their county, seven additional Maryland libraries are piloting Hatchlings.

The Hatchlings “Ready to Hatch” program teaches expectant families about early brain development and helps establish the daily habit of reading and singing to their babies before they are born. Hatchlings “In the Nest” welcomes newborn families with messages about their baby’s development and the value of daily reading, singing, and talking to build language and literacy skills and strong family bonds. Uniquely, the Hatchlings programs are offered in both library branches and outreach sites in the community, to better reach families who are underserved, under-resourced, or unaware of the value of daily engagement with babies and may not be current library customers. Programs are conducted in Spanish and English, meals are shared, giveaways are distributed, and connections are forged amongst families, library staff, and community partners.

The Hatchlings program is made possible through a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood, as part of the Preschool Development Grant, Birth-Five, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Maryland State Library Agency, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Highlighting Maryland Libraries

Competitive LSTA Grant Awards 2022-23



Filming for Creating Equitable Heritage by Frederick County Public Libraries

Baltimore County Public Library, New Americans Initiative

Baltimore County Public Library hired a project coordinator to facilitate financial literacy and conversational English programming for recent immigrants.

Carroll County Public Library, Human Resources Handbook Update

In response to changing needs, Carroll County Public Library updated its five year old Human

Resources handbook. The revised handbook removed outdated procedures and was shortened from 90 pages to 28 pages.

Cecil County Public Library, Strategic Plan

Cecil County Public Library created a new strategic plan in collaboration with staff, administration, the library board, and community. The new plan has a three-year span from FY24-FY26.

Frederick County Public Libraries, Creating Equitable Culture

Frederick County Public Libraries connected public library resources to the work of local African American historians in an effort to uncover the often overlooked, diversified past. They created four videos that highlight sites of historical importance to Frederick's African American heritage.

Kent County Public Library, Individualized Meeting Rooms

Kent County Public Library purchased 2 meeting pods to provide library customers with private and quiet meeting space.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Facilities Plan

Prince George's County Memorial Library System hired a consultant to create a Master Facilities Plan that includes all 19 branches in the library system. This document will help to guide facility planning now and for the next ten years.

**Queen Anne’s County Library,
Library on Your Schedule, 24/7 Library**

To provide better service to library customers, Queen Anne’s County Library purchased a secure locker system. This allows library patrons to pick up and drop off books and other items at a popular shopping center.

**Somerset County Library, Let’s Create!
STEM Programming**

Somerset County Library provided programming classes to over 1,000 children at branch libraries and through county outreach programs with trusted community partners.

Talbot County Free Library, Community Connections

Talbot County Free Library hired tech experts to teach one-on-one technology classes to library customers at both branches.

Wicomico Public Libraries, Coming to the Table: Board Gaming

Wicomico Public Libraries purchased board games and created programming as a way of enticing library customers back after COVID. The board games also proved to be popular check-out items with library users.

Worcester County Library, Expanding Learning Spaces

Worcester County Library purchased an ADA-compliant study pod for the Ocean City branch library. This small, enclosed space provides a quiet and more private area for studying and collaborating.



Worcester County Library’s ADA compliant privacy pod at the Ocean City Library.



Worcester County Library, Mobile Multi-Sensory Story Walk

Worcester County Library also created a mobile multisensory storywalk that was developed in partnership with the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. The storywalk includes six books translated into braille and was rolled out at several library locations and county events.

Worcester County Library’s Mobile Multi-Sensory Story Walk

Library Associate Training Institute (LATI)



2023 LATI graduating class from Anne Arundel County Public Library.

Although each library system may conduct its own in-service training, there has been a history of cooperative training for Library Associates (LAs) in Maryland since the 1960s. In 1980, the Division of Library Development and Services began to offer an approved, statewide program to ensure consistent, quality customer service for all twenty-four public and three regional library systems. In 1996, the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) was launched, offering a blended approach of online training and face-to-face meetings. The current program was revised in 2008. Yearly updates provide relevant content and feedback from each session's participants and supervisors.

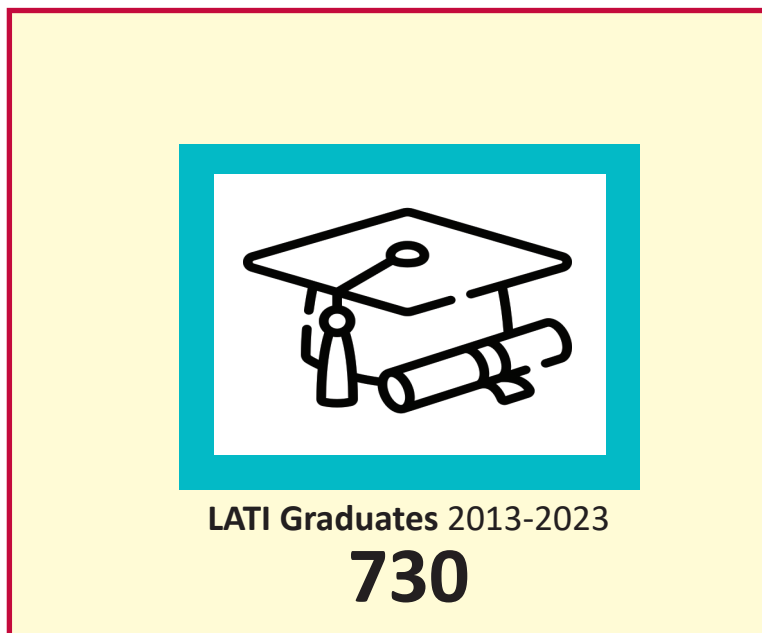
The Maryland State Library Agency has oversight of the LATI program, and members of the Public Library and State Networking Branch help to guide the program, which is led by professional librarians and library science consultants.

LATI has unique features that make it the best solution for Maryland's public libraries:

- The program provides consistent learning opportunities for every LA in the state. Whether the library is small and rural or large and urban, its LAs receive the same training from the state's experienced trainers.

- The blend of online and face-to-face classes make it convenient for distance learners while supporting the development of collegial relationships throughout the state.
- Interested and experienced librarians from each library system volunteer to provide feedback on the LAs' assignments, further strengthening their professional network and providing input about new training needs.
- Cohort groups are small enough to allow individual attention and feedback for each learner and large enough to accommodate the needs of every public library system in the state.

The Maryland State Library Agency has been recognized nationally for the extraordinary investment made in educating library staff. LATI ensures that public libraries across the state deliver the same high-quality customer experience to all.



For statistical data on Maryland Public Libraries see the Maryland Public Library Statistics page at www.sailor.lib.md.us/links/mpl-stats.

Maryland State Library Board

Sharan Marshall, Chair
Wilson Parran, Vice-Chair
Al Martin, Library Trustee
Kristen Pironis, Member at Large
Lynn Wheeler, Professional Librarian
Sharon Maneki, Member at Large

Ex Officio Members

Nay Keppler, President, Maryland Library Association
Nana Owusu-Nkwantabisa, President, Congress of Academic Library Directors
Heidi Daniel, President and CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Keith Marzullo, Dean, University of Maryland College of Information Studies
Brittany Tignor, Maryland Association of School Librarians

MSDE Representative

Vacant

MSLA Representatives

Irene Padilla	State Librarian
John Owen	Director, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
Tamar Sarnoff	Director, Public Libraries and State Networking Branch




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