2021 Annual Report

Maryland
State Library

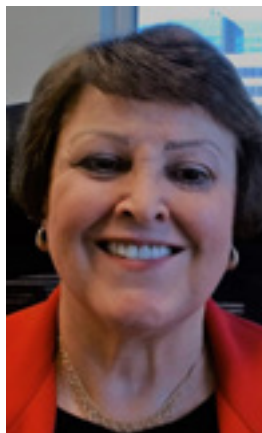# Message from the State Librarian

IRENE PADILLA

STATE LIBRARIAN

Irene Padilla, State Librarian

Fiscal Year 2021 was another remarkable year!

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSL) celebrated its fourth year as an independent agency! This has allowed us to be agile in supporting the Maryland library community to create shared strategies to navigate challenges while continuing to provide exceptional service.

We are proud to report that in Fiscal Year 2021:

- The annual mandate for the **County Public Library Capital Grants Program** was increased from $5 million to $7.5 million during the 2021 session of the General Assembly.
- The **Statewide Public Opinion Poll** showed that Maryland public libraries continue to be very highly regarded by the public. Respondents were aware of current library services, particularly Internet access. They found the library to be a good investment of tax dollars and an essential service that provides the resources they want and need. Respondents also emphasized the need for the state to invest more in public libraries.
- The name change for the **Library for the Blind and Print Disabled** (LBPD) became official on October 1, 2020.
- The **Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library** launched its new website.
- MSL continued its focus on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** (EDI) through programs that highlighted racial equity and the development of an organizational culture in which everyone thrives.
- A new program series, **Maryland Libraries Together**, was developed by a statewide task force focused on engaging communities in enriching educational experiences that advance an understanding of the issues of our time.
- The animal-themed **2021 Maryland Summer Reading Program**, "Tails and Tales," included virtual participation for families and/or physical game boards provided at libraries and at community meal sites.
- Over 150 library staff participated in the **2021 Virtual Teen Connect Week**, which highlighted teen-driven services and fostered discussion for strengthening teen voices in program and space planning, building partnerships, and supporting advocacy efforts for teens.
- Library staff participated in the 5-week eCourse on Computational Thinking through the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) **Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach**.
- **MD Tech Connect** (designed to bridge the various library technology worlds to be inclusive of all library staff in all types of libraries) went virtual in 2020 focusing on adapting library services in times of uncertainty and how libraries can reach their communities remotely.
- MSL supported **cybersecurity awareness**, especially targeting social engineering, through the provision of the advanced edition of KnowBe4.
- The **Library Associate Training Institute** (LATI) was held entirely online this year with a curriculum fully adapted to a virtual platform.
- MSL funded over **$2.1 million in statewide Library Services and Technology Act** (LSTA) grants focusing on staff training and development, including sending 717 library employees to the two annual Maryland Library Association conferences and administering competitive grants that funded technology lending, mobile access through WiFi hotspots, technology plans, facilities master plans, EDI training programs, collaborative learning through gaming for teens, and math skills help for students.
- The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** (ARPA) included approximately $3.3 million for Maryland libraries and also included provisions for state broadband deployment and broadband connectivity grants to bridge the digital divide and ensure affordable access to broadband during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dorchester County Public Library visiting the local YMCA for a story time event. Image credit: Dorchester County Public Library

- MSL implemented a new **Electronic Grants Management System** (EGMS) to streamline the grants process for customers and MSL staff and to have a central repository of grant documents.
- A WiFi map of Maryland was developed by the State Library Resource Center to geotag all free library-hosted WiFi locations around the state.
- Nini Beegan, MSL's Organizational Learning & Innovation Coordinator, was recognized for her innovative work by Library Journal in this year's Movers and Shakers. Three other award winners are from Maryland's library community including Kathryn Funk, National Library of Medicine, recognized for her innovative work; Brenda Johnson-Perkins, Baltimore County Public Library, recognized for her work in advocacy; and Jennifer Sturge, Calvert County Public Schools, recognized for her work in education.

Maryland libraries continue to thrive and find opportunities amid the challenges our communities face. The Maryland State Library provides essential services, resources, and funding to inspire library innovation.
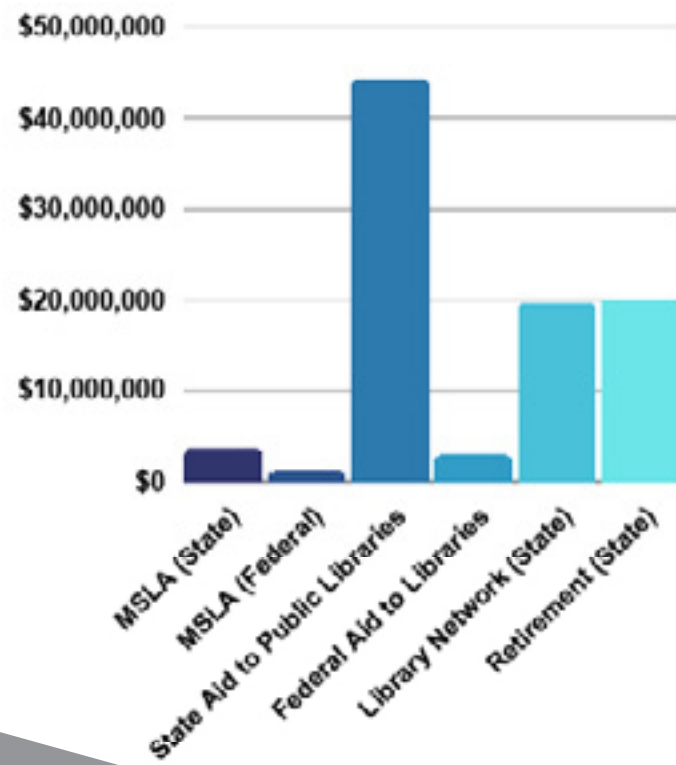
Mission

The Maryland State Library (MSL) is an independent agency. We provide strategic leadership to promote planning and innovation in the development of library programs, to encourage the ongoing development of staff expertise through education and training, and to promote resource sharing among all types of libraries. Responsibilities include oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Network, the Public Library Capital Grants Program, and the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library. Learn more about the history and mission of the Maryland State Library and its governance by visiting www.marylandlibraries.org.

MSL Budget 2021

As the State Library Agency for Maryland, the Maryland State Library administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources and programs and to provide excellent customer service. MSL 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, Maryland's Public Libraries, and the State Library Network, composed of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), three regional libraries (the Eastern Shore Regional Library, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, and the Western Maryland Regional Library), two smaller programs to facilitate interlibrary loan and LATI. In addition, the Enoch Pratt Free Library receives supplemental state funding for increased operating hours.

FY 2021 Expenditures

MSLA (State)	$3,611,903
MSLA (Federal)	$990,145
State Aid to Public Libraries	$44,058,137
Federal Aid to Libraries	$2,780,000
State Library Network (State)	$19,535,167
Retirement (State)	$19,956,096

Capital Grants

Maryland's Public Library Capital Grants Program mandates that $5 million be included in the state budget every year. Effective in FY 2023, this funding will increase to $7.5 million per year. Goals of the program include geographic diversity in the distribution of awards as well as a wealth-based match formula to encourage local jurisdictions to fund urgent and necessary public library development across the state. The grant program continues to meet the goal of geographic diversity in the distribution of awards; 23 of the state's 24 library systems received funds to renovate, expand or construct library facilities. FY 2021 marked the fourteenth year that state assistance was made available to public libraries in Maryland. Since FY 2008, $67,325,000 has been authorized, which has generated an estimated $360,000,000 dollars in local matching funds. This program has funded not only important renovations but also opened an astounding 19 new libraries. During FY 2021, the North East Branch Library opened in Cecil County. Three new state-of-the-art library facilities are also currently underway in Anne Arundel (Riviera Beach), Calvert (Twin Beaches), and Frederick (Middletown) Counties with support from the state.

Cecil County Public Library - North East Branch:

Row 1, pictured L to R: Aerial view of the library. Woman reading to kids in reading area. Row 2, L to R: Close up of entrance. Image of children playing in children's area filled with wooden workshop. Image credit: Cecil County Public Library. Cecil County Public Library, North East Branch Library, Total Grant Award: $3,862,574.

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.

Staff Development Programs
100+

Staff Attendees Across Maryland
4,900+

Library Services and Technology Act Funding Distributed:
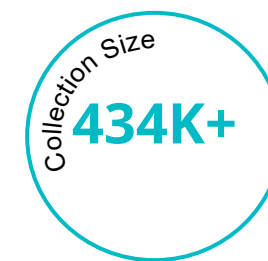

International Symbol of Libraries

$2M+ in federal LSTA funds distributed to libraries to support staff development, e-book collections, EDI initiatives, technology and WiFi hotspot lending, and more.

$546,279 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding to support community Internet connectivity, remote learning, and the creation of healthy and safe spaces.

$3,294,669 in American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide enhancements to programming, services and collections across Maryland libraries.

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) has a new name as of October 1, 2020, and continues to provide comprehensive library services to 8,394 eligible blind and print disabled residents of the state of Maryland. LBPD gives free access to books and magazines in audio, printed braille, electronic braille and large print formats. LBPD also assists college students in obtaining accessible college textbooks, teaches patrons how to use assistive technology, and hosts a variety of programs and events geared toward people with print disabilities.

Registered Users 8,394

Collection Size 434K+

Circulation 220K+

In FY 2021, LBPD implemented **Books on Demand** (BoD), enabling patrons to get customized cartridges containing multiple books based on their preferences and requests. By June 2021, BoD accounted for over half of LBPD's monthly circulation. LBPD also participated in a **Braille e-Reader pilot** sponsored by the National Library Service (NLS) giving patrons access to braille books via WiFi or cartridge on a compact device. LBPD distributed 155 devices to patrons, leading to a 380% increase in downloads of digital braille books.

Library Events & Programs

LBPD participated in 111 virtual programs and events attended by 1,054 individuals. This included innovative and collaborative programs such as:

- A teleconference series focused on healthy living in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension (UME)
- A virtual cocktail hour hosted by the International Spy Museum
- **Enter the OPAC**, an interactive website for teaching students how to use LBPD's online catalog
- Providing braille overlays for the Sensory Story Path at the Woodlawn branch of Baltimore County Public Library
- Monthly Technology User Group meetings via teleconference

Making College Accessible

The Maryland Accessible Textbook program converted over 3,538 chapters to digital format from textbooks for 52 Maryland college students.

Pictured L to R: Man using the talking book player. A young girl at Woodlawn Story Path, using the braille overlay. A Books on Demand cartridge. Image credit: MDLBPD & NLS

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

LIBRARY CARDS

56% of Marylanders have library cards! That's over 3.3M people.

ITEMS BORROWED

57M

LIBRARY VISITS

17M+

LIBRARY BRANCHES

190 Maryland libraries provide more than 5,400 computers as well as WiFi at all branches and in the community via bookmobiles and mobile hotspots.

QUESTIONS ASKED

5.3M+ Library staff assisted Marylanders in gaining important skills for lifelong learning and career readiness, both virtually and in the branches. Librarians provided one-on-one instruction, resume and job search assistance, and homework help.

LIBRARY EVENTS

1.9M Maryland libraries held outdoor storytimes, prepared take-home science and early literacy kits, and reached customers where they were through over 2,000 virtual programs.

LIBRARIES RESPOND TO COVID-19

"I so appreciate all the work you're doing to inspire and educate our community, which is desperately in need of those things sometimes, and especially now. Your organization and staff have shown to be flexible and dependable, and you've gained some lifelong fans." - Library customer

Image credits: (Above) Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Greater Riverdale Cares Holiday Food Distribution 12/19/20. The Library System provided books and other activities for families. (Right) Baltimore County Public Library's Woodlawn Branch established a new Sensory Story Path that incorporated various reading methods (braille, audio, traditional, etc.). This family is exploring the braille overlay that was placed over the book page.

Changing Library Services:
Maryland libraries continued to rise to meet challenges and support their communities throughout COVID-19 and beyond. Maryland libraries offered contactless services that kept Marylanders engaged and learning, connected communities via WiFi hotspots and take-home Chromebooks, and supported Maryland's recovery with workforce development programming. Maryland libraries met the global moment by engaging in statewide EDI trainings and initiatives and by creating equitable and inclusive spaces and services for staff and customers.

Image credit: (Above) Anne Arundel County Public Library's Brooklyn Park Branch held "Mama Hearts and Tiny Toes," a community baby shower.

PHOTOS FROM ACROSS MARYLAND

Across the state of Maryland, libraries continued to serve their communities. Pictured are: Washington County providing socially distanced story time; Talbot County Free Library providing library cards; Ruth Enlow Library of Garret County's Summer Reading Program had a reptile show; Howard County Library System celebrated its first mobile pop-up unit; A young girl sits on a bench staring at a statue of a child reading a book at Harford County Public Library; Dorchester County Public Library held story times with interactivities; Cecil County Public Library participated in the SPARK program; Queen Anne's County Library checked out fishing equipment; Charles County Public Library was interviewed by a local television station; Calvert Library held outdoor story times; St. Mary's County Library held PAWS to Read for youth patrons; Enoch Pratt Free Library encouraged public browsing; and Allegany County Library System held outdoor story times. *Image credits go to the public libraries mentioned.*

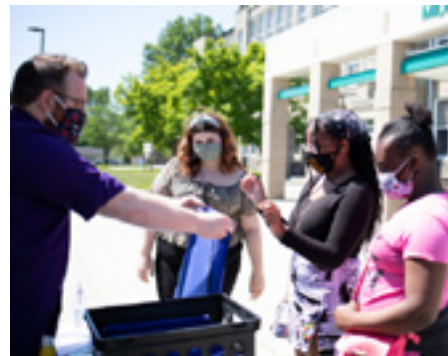Washington County Free Library

Talbot County Free Library

Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County

Howard County Library System

Harford County Public Library

Dorchester County Public Library

Cecil County Public Library

Queen Anne's County Library

St. Mary's County Library

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Charles County Public Library

Calvert Library

Allegany County Library System

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Museum *and* **Library**
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