

FACT SHEET

FY2009 Network System Upgrades

BACKGROUND

The residents of Massachusetts depend on automated resource sharing networks for access to vital library information. Most residents now rely on online public access catalogs (OPACs) for access to their library's collections (both in the library and over the Internet) and for access to the holdings of other network member libraries. Increasingly, residents use OPACs to place holds on materials, to use community information and referral files and to access full text periodical literature resources and downloadable media. In many libraries the OPAC is the gateway to other resources provided through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems and the Internet.

New web search and retrieval, interoperability standards, as well as tightly integrated information discovery tools and advanced user interface design, are rapidly evolving to leverage the value of more traditional integrated library system services—OPAC, circulation, reserves, cataloging, patron management, acquisitions and serials control.

Though the nine automated library networks have mature membership levels, they continue to add new members, pushing the physical and technical limits of their current systems.

The Library Services and Technology Act provides a major focus on information access through technology. “Through building technological infrastructure and strengthening community relationships, libraries and museums can offer the public unprecedented access and expertise in transforming information overload into knowledge.” (Institute of Museum and Library Services (2006). *About Us*. Retrieved October 24, 2006 from <http://www.imls.gov/about/about.shtm>)

MASSACHUSETTS LONG-RANGE PLAN

Goal 1: Massachusetts residents, no matter where they live, will find and obtain the resources they need using an improved technological infrastructure that links all types of libraries and provides and coordinates shared electronic resources. Residents will have access to digitized images of unique and valuable resources, improved access tools, and properly preserved physical and electronic materials.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Open to all nine eligible automated resource sharing networks that:

- Have a long-range plan on file at the MBLC by October 1, 2007 that meets the requirements of the *Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 2008-2012* and the *LSTA Policies and Procedures 2008-2012*. If a plan is already on file, an updated Action Plan for FY2009 must be on file by **December 3, 2007**;
- Have not received a network system upgrade grant within the last five years.

The Network System Upgrade grant opportunity distinguishes itself from the related “Network Connections and Servers” grant in that it goes beyond simple expansion and replacement of current equipment for an existing ILS. Under this program, the network must undertake a full public request for proposals (RFP) process for a replacement integrated library system, with thoroughly documented evaluation of proposals. This process must be underway at the time the application is filed, and preliminary results must be available for review by SACL in order for a grant award to be recommended.

The network must provide thorough evidence of ongoing operational support, maintenance and a plan for data migration, any library staff or end user training required to implement the project.

The network will be responsible for re-establishing full interoperability with the statewide virtual catalog.

The network will be responsible for estimating the impact on the regional and statewide delivery services, and demonstrating how the proposed ILS will improve the efficiency of delivery to and from its member libraries and service outlets.

Grant funds are typically used for the purchase of hardware and core software, and provide a supplement to funds provided by the network and its member libraries. Grant funds will not be used for non-essential modules or functionality. Grant funds may be used to help offset data migration costs, if sufficient funds are available.

STANDARDS

The proposed system will support the following standards.

Z39.2 - MARC21 Record Formats and Structures

Z39.50 v3 Server (Bath/U.S. National Profile for Library Applications)

Z39.82 NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol)

W3C WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 1.0)

Other standards that will promote universal access and interoperability are strongly encouraged, such as Unicode support, OpenURL compliance, MARCXML, OAI-PMH, alternate metadata schemes (e.g. Dublin Core), Web Services architecture.

BUDGET/FUNDING

A total of \$300,000, with \$200,000 in the first year and \$100,000 in the second year, has been budgeted in this grant round to support one award. Federal funds should not be expected to support more than one-half to two-thirds of the costs for equipment, software and installation.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent by December 3, 2007** with the "Network System Upgrade" option checked off under TYPE. Applicants should refer to the [grant calendar](#) for due dates in this year's round. If you would like additional information on this program contact Paul Kissman at the MBLC at 1-800-952-7403 ext. 238, or e-mail at paul.kissman@state.ma.us.