

# LSTA

## in Massachusetts

Statewide LSTA use  
that **benefits**  
all residents:

Ending The  
Digital Lockout

Preventing Summer  
Learning Loss

Providing Reliable  
Online Research

Expanding Access;  
Saving Money

Preserving and  
Digitizing our Heritage

Gateway to  
Library Services



Massachusetts **Libraries**

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

## Summer library programs prevent learning loss

- 50-67% of the achievement gap for children living in poverty is the result of summer learning loss.
- By the end of 6th grade children who lose reading skills over the summer are two years behind their classmates.
- Reading just 5 books over the summer can prevent summer learning loss.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

“The Boston Bruins being involved is such a great draw especially for boys – and boys are a target audience as they tend to be reluctant readers”.

- Massachusetts Public Librarian

**437,568** children, teens, and adults participated in **summer reading programming** in just **8 weeks** across the state - a new **record** high.



### Expanding residents' access; saving money

The Commonwealth Catalog gives residents access to millions of items that their own library network doesn't have. Residents simply request items through ComCat and they're delivered to right to the residents' local library for pick-up, usually within a few days. Last year residents borrowed 6.5 million items through the statewide resource sharing system (which includes ComCat). This also helps local libraries save money because they don't have to purchase every item a resident needs. ([commonwealthcatalog.org](http://commonwealthcatalog.org))



## STATEWIDE SERVICES



### Ending the digital lockout

The Commonwealth eBooks Collections was created in response to the overwhelming call from Massachusetts residents for more digital content. Because of vendor lending restrictions and high prices, local libraries had limited access to eBooks in a way that does not exist for print materials. In order to break this digital lockout, the Commonwealth eBooks Collections was developed to allow for statewide sharing of digital items and fair pricing for eContent. Participating libraries include: 35 academic libraries, 257 public libraries, and 283 school libraries. Through these members, there are 167,037 items available for check out. ([ebooks.masslibsystem.org](http://ebooks.masslibsystem.org))

### Preserving and digitizing our cultural heritage

With the goal of making Massachusetts historical treasures accessible to everyone no matter where they live, the MBLC's Town-wide Preservation, Assessment and Identification grant connects public libraries with historical societies, churches, town archives and other local organizations to identify significant humanities collections including prints and photographs, archives and manuscripts, sound recordings, textiles and more. The community develops a plan to preserve the items and prepares them for digitization. Digitized items are uploaded to the Digital Commonwealth ([digitalcommonwealth.org](http://digitalcommonwealth.org)) and the Digital Public Library of America ([dp.la](http://dp.la)) where everyone can enjoy them.





## Federal grants for local needs

In 2015, the MBLC awarded \$310,149 in 29 grants to public, academic, school, and special libraries and library networks for use in meeting specific local community needs.



# GRANTS TO LIBRARIES

## Direct grants to libraries included:



**Conversation Circles**  
(for learning English)

**Digitizing Historical Resources**

**Innovative**  
(explore new ways to meet residents needs)

**Citizenship Corners and Expanded English Language Services for New Americans**

**Mind in the Making**  
(interactive learning for children aged 0-6)

**Financial Literacy**

**Framework for Health Literacy**

**STEM/STEAM=**  
**Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math**

**Serving Teens and Tweens**

**Preservation of Library and Archival Materials**

**School Library Incentives**

**Serving People with Disabilities**

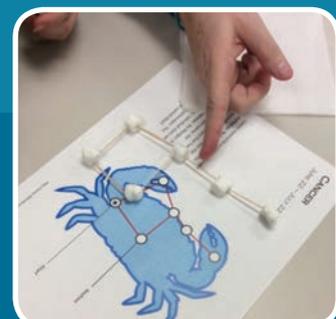


## Gateway to library services

Mass.gov/libraries is the one stop, easy way for residents to access all statewide services, including digital content, research databases, digitized collections, eBooks and newspapers. It also connects residents to ESOL and citizenship programs, GED and HiSET preparation classes, and early literacy programs at their local libraries.

## Providing reliable online research

Through statewide databases, all Massachusetts residents have access to reliable information that can't be found through a Google search. Residents get 24/7 access to full text articles from magazines, academic journals, newspapers and more. Last year residents accessed over 7.9 million articles from this service.



See more:  
[masslsta.tumblr.com](http://masslsta.tumblr.com)

## Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

98 N. Washington Street, Suite 401  
Boston, MA 02114

**P:** 800-952-7403 (in state only)  
617-725-1860

**mass.gov/libraries**  
(consumer portal)

**mass.gov/mblc**  
(agency site)

Rachel Masse, LSTA Coordinator  
*rachel.masse@state.ma.us*

**For more information** about how MBLC uses federal  
LSTA funds to benefit all Massachusetts residents, visit

**[mblc.state.ma.us/grants/lsta/index.php](http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/lsta/index.php)**

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**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES