



## BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

**Who are we?** The BLC is a collaborative partnership of 18 academic and research libraries in New England that provides pro-active, innovative and cost-effective access to shared resources, services, and expertise. Collaboration, primarily through resource sharing, consortial collecting and professional development, is key to our mission. By connecting staff as well as information resources across the member libraries, our Communities of Interest provide diverse opportunities for networking and spawn a variety of initiatives. By championing issues of importance to the member libraries, we use our collective voice in support of more effective models for scholarly communication, research data management, the preservation of the scholarly record and transformation of the modern research library.

### Services for Scholars, Students and Faculty

- ✓ Access to the collections of the BLC libraries, totaling almost 19 million titles\*
- ✓ The Consortium Card providing local use of the libraries' collections\*
- ✓ Access to government documents (13 members are in the Federal Library Depository Program)\*
- ✓ Membership in Open Textbook Network [OTN] provides seed funding for development of open educational resources
- ✓ Requesting journal articles and bound journals via the Five Colleges Libraries Repository Collection.

### Services for Libraries and Librarians

- ✓ An infrastructure to support sharing of print, digital and electronic content across the libraries without extensive technology requirements\*
- ✓ Directors form a robust network of library leadership for consultation, collaboration, and comradery
- ✓ Cost-effective consortial collection development and shared print collaboration
  - eBook Initiatives – JSTOR evidence based service
  - Membership in the Five Colleges Libraries Repository Collection
  - Digitization through the Internet Archive (IA) with content available through IA and DPLA
  - Special Collections Initiatives – Consortial Boston schools desegregation collection; Metadata Consultant for DPLA participation
  - Option to join Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) – ensuring access to print beyond the BLC
- ✓ Communities of Interest [COI's] – Infrastructure to support networking groups as needs and interests arise and evolve. Currently, more than 15 networking groups available for staff participation. Among the most active are:
  - Associate University Librarians – Currently focused on workforce development issues
  - Heads of Resource Management – Engaged in evaluating consortial collecting and related topics
  - eBook Working Group – Oversight of the JSTOR program; evaluation of new ebook initiatives
  - Resource Sharing – Revising best practices; oversight of technology initiatives for ILL
  - Special Collections – Developed and now overseeing Boston Public School Desegregation project
- ✓ Access to Board funding for pilot projects and other initiatives that serve the strategic interests of the member libraries – Rapid beta development project, two Special Collections projects, OTN membership and the new BLC Leads program are recent examples

\*Available to Full Members only. BLC Members who are also members of the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust have access to an additional approximately 16 million holdings. A group of the Boston area Alma libraries also make available a walk-in service for users that does not require the Consortium card.

## Professional Development

While Professional Development has always been a benefit of BLC membership, in June of 2016 the BLC Board of Directors made workforce development a major strategic initiative. Working with an outside consultant and with the guidance of the BLC's Associate University Librarians and Associate Deans, the BLC has hired a Program Coordinator to plan and develop a calendar of professional development opportunities for all levels of staff. BLC workshops, workshops, training sessions and other professional development opportunities are offered regularly for members, often developed in conjunction with a Community of Interest. Examples include:

- ✓ ORCID Workshop – a half-day session focused on ways BLC libraries are implementing persistent digital identifiers in support of their researchers and scholars
- ✓ Universal Design and The Simplicity Cycle – a webinar focused on improving library teaching and instruction
- ✓ Negotiating Skills for Librarians – a 6-week online course designed primarily for librarians involved in negotiating e-resource licenses (Note: Members were charged for the program but at a discounted rate.)
- ✓ Data visualization for libraries – A day long interactive workshop on the Tableau software taught jointly by experienced BLC librarians
- ✓ Rapid and RapidR training – Formal training from the Rapid development and training team
- ✓ Project Management for Librarians Workshop
- ✓ Open Educational Resources Workshop – Included presentations by 3 BLC libraries actively pursuing programs in open educational resources as well as updates from the Open Textbook Network staff
- ✓ e-Science and e-Social Sciences boot camps
- ✓ Marketing Library e-Resources
- ✓ Current Developments in Data Management for Libraries – day long sessions at two separate BLC libraries done in conjunction with Digital Science.

## BLC Leads

Following almost a year of development, in May 2017 the BLC kicked off its first leadership development institute, BLC Leads. Sixteen mid-career library staff participate in a 6-month multi-faceted program that blends in-person and virtual learning with visits to BLC member libraries. Focused on developing leadership skills and preparing librarians for the transformative changes occurring in the academy, BLC Leads engages participants in experiences including:

- ✓ two in-person institutes in June and November
- ✓ a series of online facilitated discussions and webinars relating to the issues and trends most pressing for current and future library leaders
- ✓ hosted site visits at BLC member libraries.

## Current Finances

- ✓ Membership as of July 1, 2017: 16 Full Members, 2 Affiliate Members
- ✓ FY18 income from membership dues: \$345,125 (Note: BLC also receives a portion of the EAST members' dues as it acts as the administrator and fiscal host for the project)
- ✓ Reserve Fund balance: \$290,000.

### BLC WorldCat Holdings as of June, 2017

Boston College	1,660,880	U. Massachusetts, Amherst	2,941,352
Boston University	1,452,212	U. Massachusetts, Boston	811,737
Brandeis University	1,291,489	U. Massachusetts, Dartmouth	262,642
MBL/WHOI	73,256	U. Massachusetts, Lowell	636,749
Northeastern University	901,448	University of New Hampshire	1,846,202
State Library of Massachusetts	122,628	University of Rhode Island	1,382,150
Tufts University	1171698	Wellesley College	1,020,726
University of Connecticut	2,002,760	Williams College	778,396
<b>Total:</b>			<b>18,676,371</b>

### Rapid ILL Borrowing for BLC Libraries - June, 2016 through April, 2017



Rapid is the preferred ILL software for the BLC and while most libraries also use ILLiad and some IDS Logic, the short turnaround time and unmediated requesting in Rapid result in efficient delivery of articles, book chapters digitally and returnables using UPS. The Rapid software also ensures that locally owned and available materials are provided first and give BLC libraries access to a growing number of libraries outside of the local consortium through their web of “pods”.

## The BLC Board of Directors

The director of its principle institutional library represents each BLC member library on the Board. The Board meets quarterly including a 2-day meeting in June that includes a half-day retreat to focus on strategic issues.

The Board officers include the President, Past President and President-Elect, who serve one year in each position and a Treasurer who serves for three years.

Management Council, which includes the Board officers as well as two at-large members appointed from the Board, meets via conference call monthly with the Executive Director and focuses both on operational issues as well as items charged to them directly from the Board.

In December of 2015 the BLC engaged the services of an association management company, Virtual Inc. with responsibility for providing financial and accounting services, including the annual audit using an outside CPA firm, administrative support and strategic consulting services. A member of the Virtual team attends the quarterly Board meetings and is available as needed to support Board activities as well as the work of the Executive Director.

### Officers of the BLC Board of Directors as of June, 2017

- ✓ Lisa Raymond, MBL/WHOI, President
- ✓ Simon Neame, UMass-Amherst, Vice-President and President-Elect
- ✓ Terry Burton, UMass-Dartmouth, Treasurer
- ✓ Martha Bedard, UConn, Past-President (now retired)

## Networking Day

Each year, typically in late May or early June, the BLC holds a full membership meeting, called Networking Day. While the format varies somewhat from year to year, it typically includes an outside keynote speaker, a series of “lightning” talks from BLC member libraries presenting new initiatives and projects, an update on BLC activities, and an opportunity for interested Communities of Interest to meet either singly or jointly with other groups. The 2017 Networking Day also featured the orientation for the new BLC Leads program.

The 2017 membership meeting was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Brandeis University and featured:

Keynote: David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States: [Building Our Future through Our Staff: Rethinking, Recruiting, and Retaining the Workforce in the 2020s](#)

Update on the BLC: Susan Stearns, Executive Director

Lightning Talks: What’s New at BLC Libraries, Various BLC Library Staff

- ✓ Collaborating on Student Learning Research Across Campus & Beyond
- ✓ UMass Amherst Libraries Patent & Trademark Resource Center (PTRC)
- ✓ Designing for Complexity & Goodness: Using The Simplicity Cycle to Transform Instructional Materials
- ✓ Libraries and SIPX: An Experiment Seeking Copyright Permission
- ✓ I’m An Exhibitionist: Creating Impactful Art and Artifact Displays in Your Library
- ✓ Beyond the One-Shot: Creating a Scalable Information Literacy Curriculum
- ✓ The VIVA Last Copy VHS Project
- ✓ Expanding the IR with Emeritus Publications
- ✓ Students Who Love the Library – Creating and Supporting a Student-Run Organization