About the BLC

Founded in 1970, the Boston Library Consortium focuses on resource sharing, professional development, collaboration and advocacy among 19 public and private academic universities, liberal arts colleges, special research libraries, and state libraries in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

In addition to the BLC’s commitment to providing high-quality and cost-effective sharing of print and digital content, the consortium serves as a forum for a wide range of library practice areas and an incubator for projects and initiatives relevant to academic and research libraries across New England.

Overview

This document serves to provide a summary of strategic initiatives, programs, and services available to member libraries.
GOVERNANCE & MEMBERSHIP

The BLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors including representation from the chief librarian for each of the member libraries. The Board of Directors meets quarterly. The Management Council, comprised of four board officers and two members-at-large, meets virtually each month with BLC staff to manage operations and other duties delegated by the board.

### 2020-21 OFFICERS

- **Anne Langley**, University of Connecticut—President
- **Dorothy Meaney**, Tufts University—Vice President/President-elect
- **Tara Lynn Fulton**, University of New Hampshire—Past President
- **Mary Piorun**, UMass Medical School—Treasurer

### MEMBERSHIP TIERs

- **Full Members** are required to participate in the BLC’s Resource Sharing Services and are eligible to participate in all other initiatives, programs and services.
- **Affiliate Members** may participate in all initiatives, programs, and services except Resource Sharing/ILL.

### BLC Member Libraries – Types and Locations

**Academic**
- Bentley University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- MBL/WHOI
- Northeastern University
- State Library of Massachusetts
- Tufts University
- University of Connecticut
- UMass—Amherst
- UMass—Boston
- UMass—Dartmouth
- UMass—Lowell
- UMass Medical School
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Rhode Island
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- Williams College

**Research**

**State**

**Special**
HISTORY OF STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1970

Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Tufts University, and Boston Public Library founded the BLC

› Promote cooperation in building research collections
› Promote cooperation in making resources more readily available to area students and scholars

Goals, 2002

Entrepreneurial Initiative: BLC Portal
› Staff Development and Training
› Contract Negotiation
› Resource Sharing and Timely Delivery of Materials

Priorities, 2010–13

› Adopt a broader definition of Resource Sharing
› Redefine the library’s role in scholarly communication
› Redefine the library’s role in the process of scholarly research
› Enhance perceived value to BLC stakeholders through improved communication

2002

Strategic Directions, 2019–21

› Resource Sharing
› Access and Interoperability
› Collaborative Initiatives

2010

Resource Sharing
› Access and Interoperability
› Collaborative Initiatives

2019
RESOURCE SHARING SERVICES

The BLC utilizes RapidILL and RapidR as our primary infrastructure for reciprocal borrowing and lending of physical and electronic resources. Most libraries also use ILLiad to streamline ILL workflows. Some also use IDS Logic.

BLC member libraries utilize a combination of Odyssey, RapidX, Article Exchange, UPS, and the MLS for delivery services. UPS 2nd Day Air service is required of all full member libraries.

ACCESS & BORROWING PRIVILEGES AT MEMBER LIBRARIES

› The Consortium Card facilitates access and borrowing by faculty, students, and staff across the full member libraries (FY21 FTE: 206,399)
› More than 20 million print titles and a growing number of digital and electronic resources.
› Eleven of the BLC member libraries participate in the Federal Depository Library Program offering access to government documents in their collections.

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<th>2019-20 ILL BORROWING</th>
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2020–21 COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

- Associate University Librarians
- Access Services
- Assessment
- Business
- Continuing Resources & Metadata Management
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Government Documents
- Health Sciences
- Media
- Open Educational Resources
- Resource Sharing
- Science & Engineering
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BLC Leads
a biannual six-month program to prepare emerging leaders through in-person institutes, virtual engagement, and site visits to BLC member libraries.

Networking Day
including a series of lightning talks, a keynote presentation, and COI meetings, attended by more than 200 librarians and library staff each year.

Expanding Knowledge Webinars
a series of webinars and workshops designed to facilitate sharing expertise, highlighting the work of librarians and library staff across the BLC member libraries.

Professional Development Alliance
a partnership among ten library consortia to expand virtual professional development opportunities.
SERVICES

E-RESOURCE LICENSING

BrowZine
branded newsstand delivery of subscription and open access journals

ScienceDirect
access to Elsevier titles among four participating member libraries

JSTOR
evidence-based acquisition of eBooks among seven member libraries

RESEARCH SOLUTIONS REPRINTS DESK
on-demand document delivery of supplementary journal titles

SciFinder
discovery tool for chemical information among seven participating member libraries

waldo
access to e-journals, databases, and related services

ADDITIONAL SERVICES & MEMBERSHIPS

EAST
a shared print initiative involving 79 academic and research libraries across 13 states, including 17 BLC members

FIVE COLLEGE CONSORTIUM
an affiliate membership to the Repository Collection utilized by 11 member libraries

Open Education Network
a consortial membership offering workshops for library staff to promote the use of open educational resources

WorldCat
a consortial agreement including 13 BLC members for OCLC WorldCat/FirstSearch

DIGITIZATION

The BLC participates in the Open Content Alliance and member libraries receive discounted scanning services. Member libraries have contributed almost 90,000 items to the Internet Archive to date.