

MVLS Strategic Directions

I. IMPROVE ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF THE MVLS SERVICE AREA.

Provide advice and assistance to member library boards and staff in matters such as programming, automation, planning, construction, materials selection, collection assessment and revenue improvement on an ongoing basis.

Assist member libraries in the provision and use of quality electronic resources to meet local needs.

Support member library efforts to expand library services to unchartered areas.

Support member library efforts to achieve equitable funding in their own communities.

Support member library efforts to achieve equitable funding from library users living outside the library's chartered service area.

Assist localities in establishing new public libraries in unserved areas.

Provide and maintain online access to the MVLS union catalog through the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Increase access to informational resources by financially supporting the licensing of databases.

Maximize use of licensed databases and other electronic resources through the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Make information available through the MVLS web site.

Central Library provides:

- Comprehensive reference services
- Materials through inter library loan or direct borrowing
- Direct access to specialized online resources
- Opportunities for member library input to request the purchase of materials, electronic resources, and new services

Maintain daily (or local preference) delivery services to facilitate resource sharing.

Facilitate regional resource sharing through the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Mediate MVLS interlibrary loan requests to libraries in the region and beyond.

Maintain and make available materials to meet library and public demands:

- special rotating collections
- program materials
- electronic resources

Provide consultation, continuing education and coordination of special projects to help member libraries offer quality and economical service to children, teens, and their families and create life long library users.

Maintain specialized equipment such as the mobile laptop lab for use by member libraries for public and staff training

Lead and support efforts of member libraries to meet, maintain, and exceed regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act through consultation and grant funding.

Lead and support efforts to provide materials, equipment, and services for special populations through consultation and grant funding. Special populations include [but are not limited to]:

- Older adults
- People with visual, physical, mental, or learning disabilities
- People in geographically isolated areas
- People who are underserved or members of ethnic and minority groups
- People in need of job preparedness and employment
- People in institutions

Maintain equipment to serve people with visual and physical impairments

Act as liaison between member libraries and the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library

Provide educational and recreational materials, job readiness and rehabilitative programs and interlibrary loan to the inmates of the six county and state correctional facilities in the four counties through NYS Institutions and Corrections aid.

Maintain awareness of funding opportunities and submit grant proposals that support system goals.

II. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES THROUGH ALTERNATE SOURCES OF FUNDING.

Generate and administer annually, after discussion with representatives from member libraries, system-wide grants of benefit to the libraries and residents of the MVLS service area.

Assist member libraries in writing grants annually.

Administer New York State Public Library Construction Grant Applications by advising, reviewing, and recommending projects based on consideration of the following priorities:

1. Project results in expected expansion of service to the public through increased and improved building space and capacity including projects to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.
2. Project results in economies due to energy conservation.
3. Project results in improved or increased electronic accessibility.

Projects will be ranked using those priorities.

Assist and support member libraries in preparing and applying for New York State Public Library Construction Grants.

Support and promote adult and family literacy by working with member libraries to develop and implement grant proposals.

Partner with other library systems or agencies on grant development annually.

III. IMPROVE LIBRARY SERVICES THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION

Provide scheduled workshops and/or training sessions on library topics and technology annually, incorporating input from the MVLS community.

Cooperate with other regional systems in providing continuing education opportunities.

Provide opportunities for workshops and specialized training to meet new challenges and respond to current needs.

Support continuing education for system, member library staff and trustees to enhance library services.

Encourage member libraries to use community based planning utilizing the Public Library Association's New Planning for Results model.

IV. FACILITATE COOPERATION AND NETWORKING BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF MVLS FOR PURPOSES OF ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY, OR SHARING.

Promote system and member library activities through the MVLS Web site, newsletter, news media and other means.

Provide opportunities to encourage member libraries to participate in system governance, planning, decision-making and evaluation through mechanisms such as grant development meetings, advisory councils, surveys and questionnaires, and requests for comments on plans, budgets and other matters.

Discuss and evaluate member library use of current MVLS services and explore the need for additional services through frequent field visits, surveys and other methods.

Increase awareness of the role of public libraries and improve library services by building alliances among MVLS, member libraries and local organizations and enterprises.

V. EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE MVLS SERVICE AREA.

Provide and support access to the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Provide training for member library staff in use of new technologies.

Furnish technical support for automated functions at system headquarters and member libraries through MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project and MVLS staff.

Improve communications through the use of current technologies.

Provide free mode of communication between libraries and MVLS Service Center.

VI. MANAGE THE SYSTEM IN AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.

Explore new ways of enhancing revenues to support and expand system services.

Evaluate system space needs and alternatives to current Service Center.

Monitor the system's compliance with Education Law, Commissioner's Regulations, System Plan of Service, MVLS By-laws, and Direct Access Plan.

Review, evaluate, and administer personnel policies, practices, and job descriptions in an on-going effort to meet changing needs and circumstances.

Maintain quality, accuracy, and currency of the union catalog by working cooperatively with the Schenectady County Public Library, and the Southern Adirondack Library System through the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Work in partnership with the Southern Adirondack Library System, the Joint Automation staff, and member libraries to manage and enhance the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project.

Participate in the governance of the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project through the Joint Automation Council, Automation committees, and user groups.

Develop and implement annual goals and objectives to support the System Plan of Service.