Maine's Internet Infrastructure, Libraries & Workforce -- the Impact of COVID-19, and the July Bond Vote
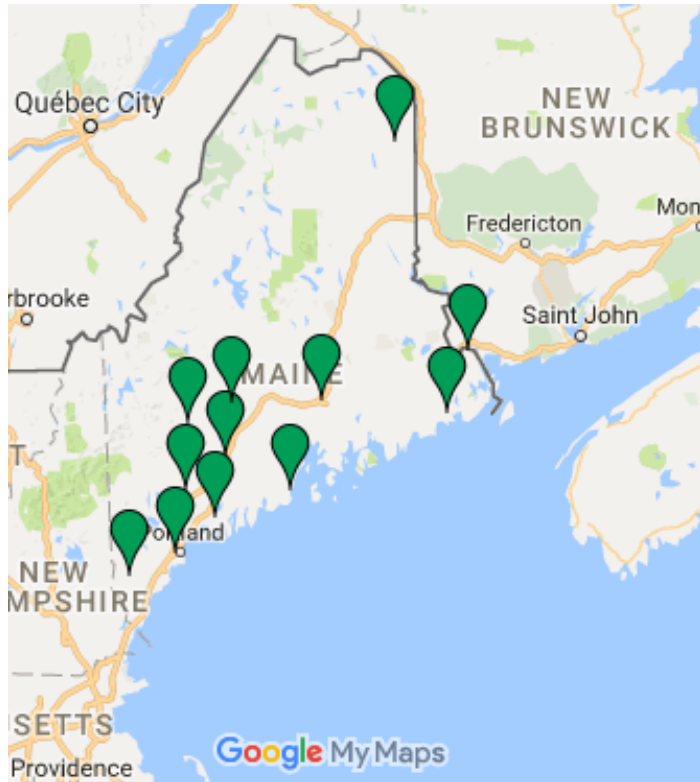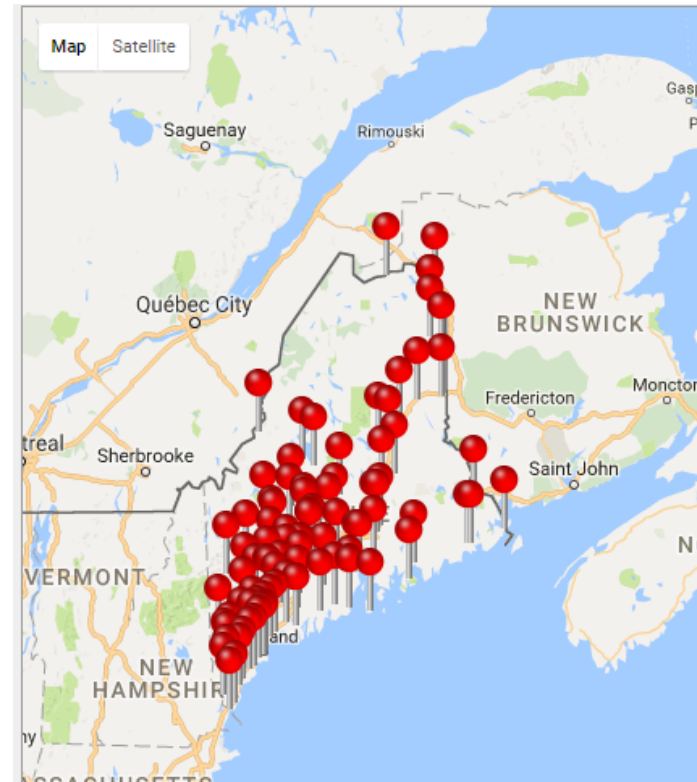
Lisa Neal Shaw

Maine State Library

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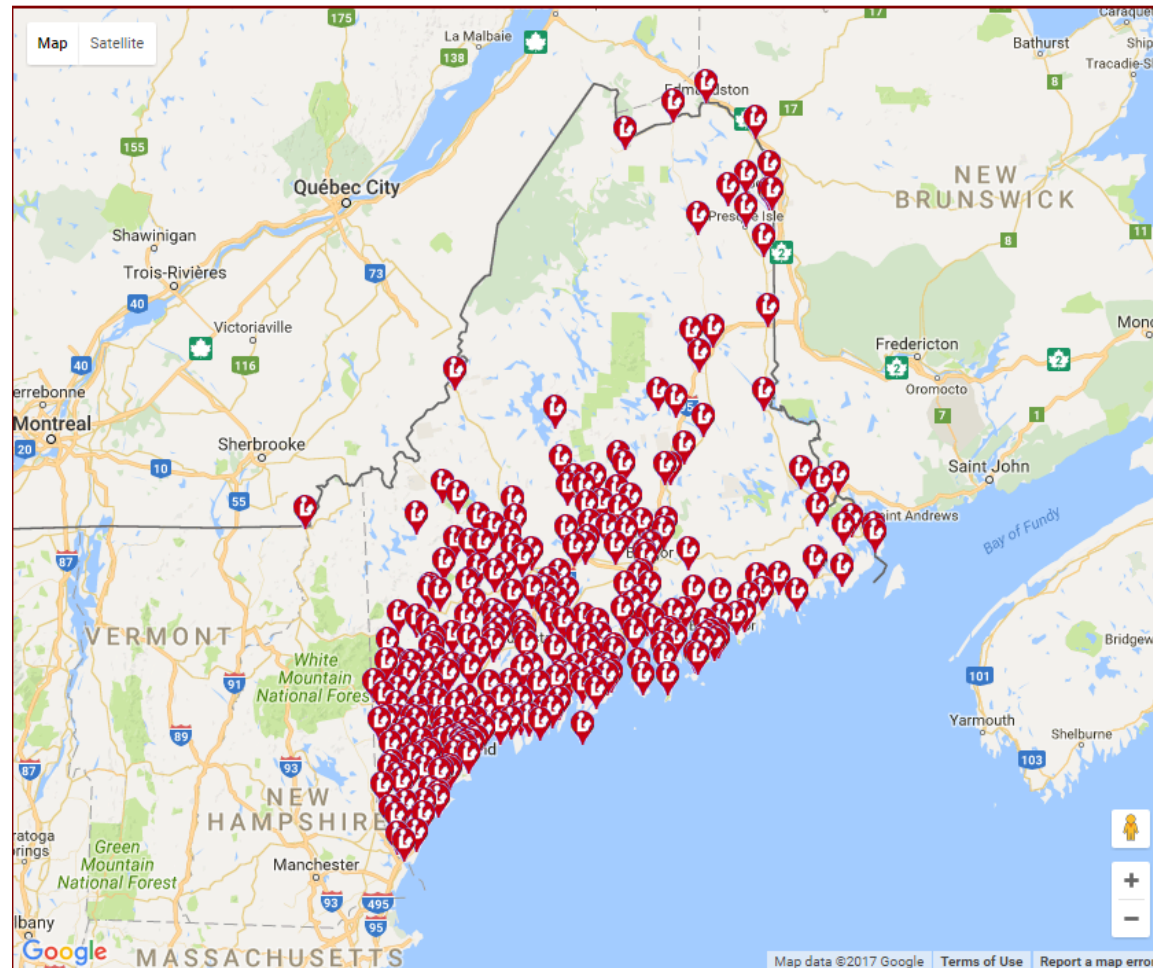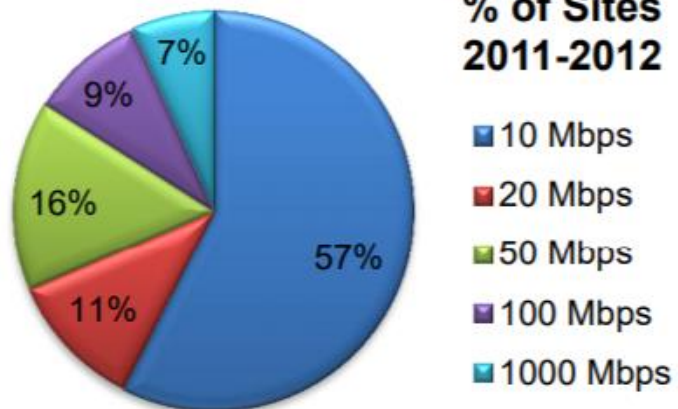# Maine Public Libraries – A Growing Need for Workforce and Education High-Speed Internet Access
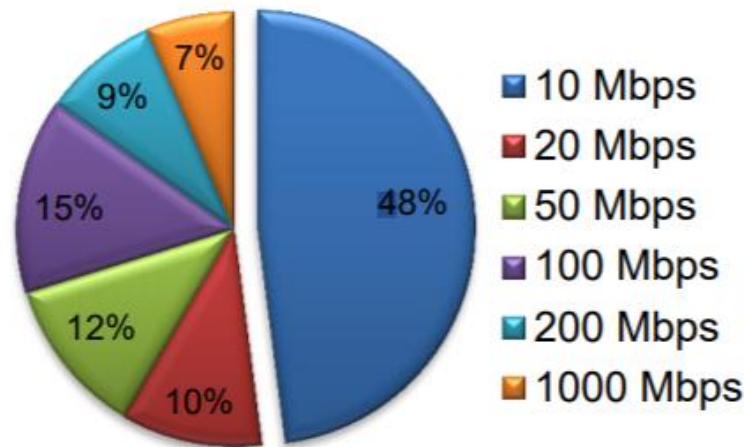

CareerCenters

Adult Ed Centers

256 Public Libraries

% of Sites 2011-2012

- 10 Mbps — 57%
- 20 Mbps — 11%
- 50 Mbps — 16%
- 100 Mbps — 9%
- 1000 Mbps — 7%

MSLN Bandwidth Distribution — 2014-2015

- 10 Mbps — 48%
- 20 Mbps — 10%
- 50 Mbps — 12%
- 100 Mbps — 15%
- 200 Mbps — 9%
- 1000 Mbps — 7%

MSLN Bandwidth Distribution '16-'17

- 5 Mbps
- 10 Mbps
- 20 Mbps
- 50 Mbps
- 100 Mbps — 48%
- 200 Mbps
- 300 Mbps
- 500 Mbps
- 1000 Mbps — 36%

MSLN Bandwidth Distribution '18-'19

- 10 Mbps
- 100 Mbps — 26%
- 200 Mbps — 18%
- 300 Mbps — 2%
- 400 Mbps
- 500 Mbps — 3%
- 1000 Mbps — 50%
- 2000 Mbps — 1%
- 10000 Mbps

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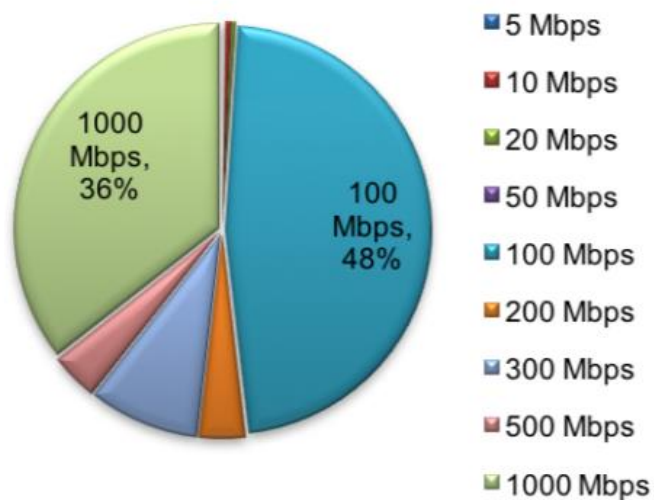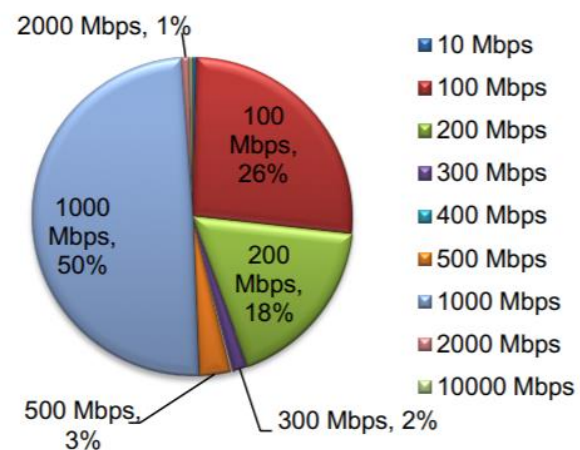
Peabody Memorial Library - Jonesport, ME

Page Liked · August 27, 2015 · 🌐

Washington County Library Initiative Allows Students to Bring Home Portable Wi-Fi!

High speed wireless internet just became a lot more accessible to students in parts of rural Washington County thanks to the launch of the "Check-out the Internet" project at Peabody Memorial Library in Jonesport.

The program allows eligible students to borrow a portable Wi-Fi device providing high-speed internet ... See More

"…Originating from the Shaw Public Library, the extended WIFI will extend south on the Moosehead Lake Road, to Moosehead Traders; and on Pritham Avenue, stretching to the StressFree Moose Pub. If you're in Greenville Junction, you'll notice the free WIFI available as well! We're excited to be extending the free public WIFI near Balance Gym & Wellness Center, for users who need WIFI access in Greenville Junction.
The extended free public WIFI network will make it easy and convenient for visitors and residents to connect to the internet with their mobile devices in downtown Greenville and Greenville Juction. We are excited to be able to offer this free service to users to access information about recreation, activities, and businesses in the Moosehead Lake Region."

http://www.mooseheadlakeedc.com/about/projects

Note: Greenville funds their off-campus connectivity via TIF (tax increment financing) and not through federal e-rate funds.

View of the Naples [Maine] Public Library Parking Lot from Inside the Building

White Space Antenna on Roof of Millinocket Memorial Library

GET A NEW JOB

SEARCH JOBS, INTERNSHIPS, & MORE

All Jobs ▼

Job Title

City, State, or Zip Code

Search

WRITE A RESUME
Create a resume to send to potential employers

WRITE A COVER LETTER
Prepare a cover letter to send with your resume

TIPS & ADVICE
Get tips about resumes, applying, and interviews

INTERVIEW SIMULATION
Prepare for job interviews with our interview simulation

DISCOVER A NEW CAREER

ASSESS YOUR **CAREER INTERESTS**

BROWSE **CAREER PATHS**

MATCH EXPERIENCE TO **NEW CAREERS**

Find **Schools & Programs**

The Daily**Leap**

Daily Leap Career Video of the Week: Overcoming
~~Imposter Syndrome~~

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▲ My Library: **Digital Maine Library**

Change Databases   A文 English ▼   🖼   G Sign in with Google   ⊞ Sign in with Microsoft

GALE

digital**mainelibrary**

GALE BUSINESS
| Entrepreneurship

[Search... 🔍]

Advanced Search

📖 Glossary   💡 Browse Topics   ▤ Title List   🕐 Search History   🔗 Get Link   🖊 Highlights And Notes

TOPICS OF INTEREST

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> "For us and members of our community... MSLN... is more than just an information network, it's a community connection, with real tangible value. The MSLN enabled us to offer immediate assistance to a dozen businesses when their office complex burned two years ago. One business estimated they were able to save thousands of dollars in lost wages and business interruptions by having our network available..."
>
> Nancy E. Crowell,
> Director of Scarborough Public Library,
> Testimony on L.D. 256

[T]he WIOA Maine Unified Work Plan for 2016-2020 specifically calls workforce investment boards to work with the public library system: "…Partnering with Maine's Public Library System Workforce boards will work to promote the resources of Maine's public library system as a key means of addressing this issue. Maine has over 266 public libraries, the smallest of them serving an island population and the largest serving Maine's predominant urban hubs (Portland, Lewiston-Auburn, and Bangor). Libraries are vital centers of community access to technology and resources for online learning. Recent surveys reveal that 750,000 Mainers have a library card and over 1.7 million high speed internet sessions took place through 230 libraries (each having between 100 mbps to 1 gigabit of fiber connections). Maine libraries offer safe, family welcoming environments where single parents can access job search resources with children in tow. They offer informal training in digital literacy from how to set up email accounts (critical for rural participants to register for labor exchange and file unemployment claims), to assisting with uploading resumes to various job sites. …"

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🏛 **Maine State Library**

EBSCO LearningExpress®

Welcome to LearningExpress Library

Find Tests, Tutorials, eBooks... 🔍

Career Preparation

Make your work goals a reality—start a new career or advance in your current field.

High School Equivalency Center

Guided support and preparation to help you earn a high school equivalency credential.

College Admissions Test Preparation

Prepare for important exams like the ACT®, SAT®, AP® Tests, and more.

School Center

Skill-building resources for classroom and homework success.

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College Students

Achieve your undergrad goals and prepare for future success.

Adult Core Skills

Achieve your personal education and career goals.

Computer Skills Center

Video courses to learn popular software and computer basics.

Recursos Para Hispanohablantes

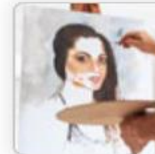Herramientas de aprendizaje, carrera y ciudadanía en español

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I Want to Take a Class in...

Accounting Over 40 online courses	**Alternative Medicine** Over 40 online courses	**Crafts & Hobbies** Over 70 online courses
Business Over 100 online courses	**Career Training** Over 100 online courses	**Computer Training** Over 50 online courses
Entrepreneurship Over 100 online courses	**Finance** Over 65 online courses	**General Education** Over 95 online courses

Health & Medicine	**History**	**Homeschooling**
Over 45 online courses	Over 30 online courses	Over 45 online courses

How To / Do It Yourself	**Language Arts**	**Law/Legal/Criminal**
Over 55 online courses	Over 35 online courses	Over 35 online courses

Mathematics	**Office Skills**	**Parenting and Family**
Over 10 online courses	Over 100 online courses	Over 45 online courses

Personal Development	**Pet and Animal Care**	**Psychology**
Over 35 online courses	Over 10 online courses	Over 55 online courses

Real Estate	**Science**	**Self-Help**
Over 10 online courses	Over 15 online courses	Over 65 online courses

Social Work
Over 35 online courses

Special Education
Over 15 online courses

Spiritual Studies
Over 35 online courses

Teacher Resources
Over 65 online courses

Test Preparation
Over 35 online courses

Web Development
Over 35 online courses

Writing Skills
Over 55 online courses

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256 – Total Number of Recognized Public Libraries FY19

6,454,240 – library visits to Maine libraries in FY19

256 libraries – Reporting Number of Computers
Number of Internet **Computers** Used by General Public Statewide: **1,880**

242 libraries – Reporting Computer Usage
Public **Computer Uses**: **657,460** [of those equipped to accurately report]

107 libraries – Reporting Wireless Usage
Wireless Sessions: 962,721 [This # is actually MUCH larger; not all libraries are equipped to accurately count wireless usage.]

27 libraries – Reporting **Database Usage**
Successful Retrieval of Electronic Information: **213,099**

175 libraries – Reporting Electronic Material Usage **(ebooks/e-audio)**
Use of Electronic Material: **573,522**

Data compiled and vetted by Maine State Library's State Data Coordinator Jenny Melvin [jenny.j.melvin@maine.gov]. Final numbers are posted annually after vetting by both the State Data Coordinator and IMLS: https://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/data/index.html

mainespark

CONNECT TO YOUR FUTURE

AETC's National Digital Equity Center's new program, the Maine Digital Inclusion Initiative (MDII) will expand digital literacy services to traditionally under-served populations and provide job training/employment-related education throughout the state of Maine. Collaborators on the project are the University of Maine and the Maine State Library.

The Maine State Library and libraries throughout Maine have partnered with other agencies in growing, welcoming, attracting, and retaining a 21st century workforce. Whether it's early literacy, lifelong learning, network navigation, or the desire to work where you live, libraries provide meeting space, engaging multi-media and in-person learning opportunities, and the fastest broadband speed in Maine.
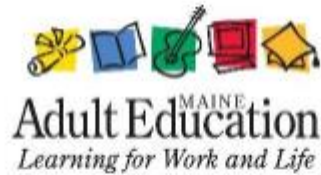
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The Maine State Library, and other agencies around Maine, are partnering with U Maine on ways to capture on-line independent learning in the form of a digital credential of value to employers and institutions of higher learning.
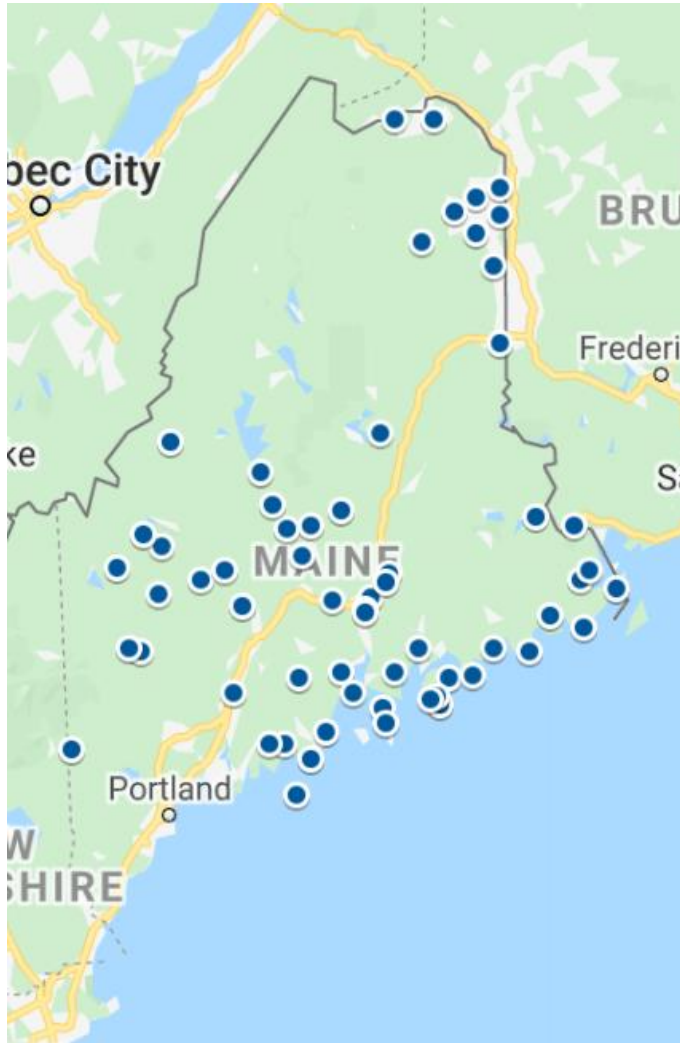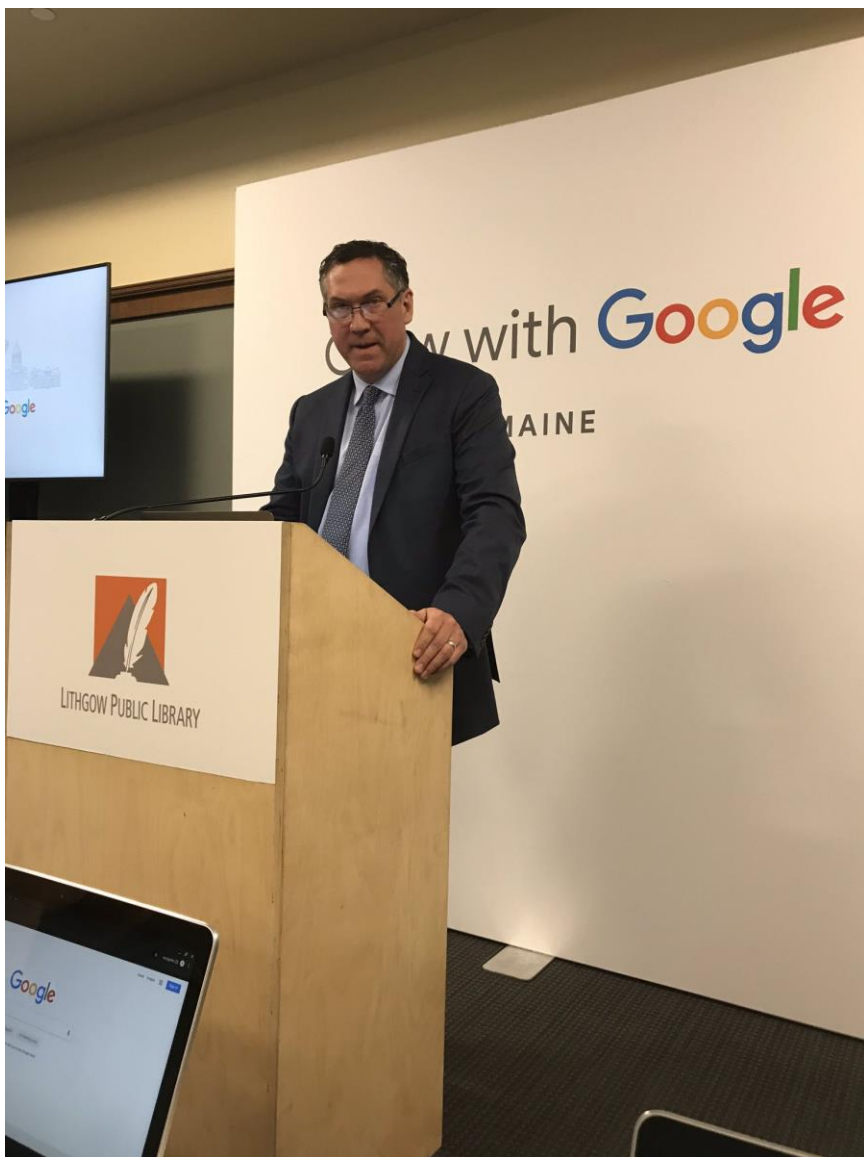
Maine Digital Inclusion Initiative library locations where trainings were held by early 2020.

UMaine Orono led microcredentialing initiative "All Learning Counts" funded by the Lumina Foundation
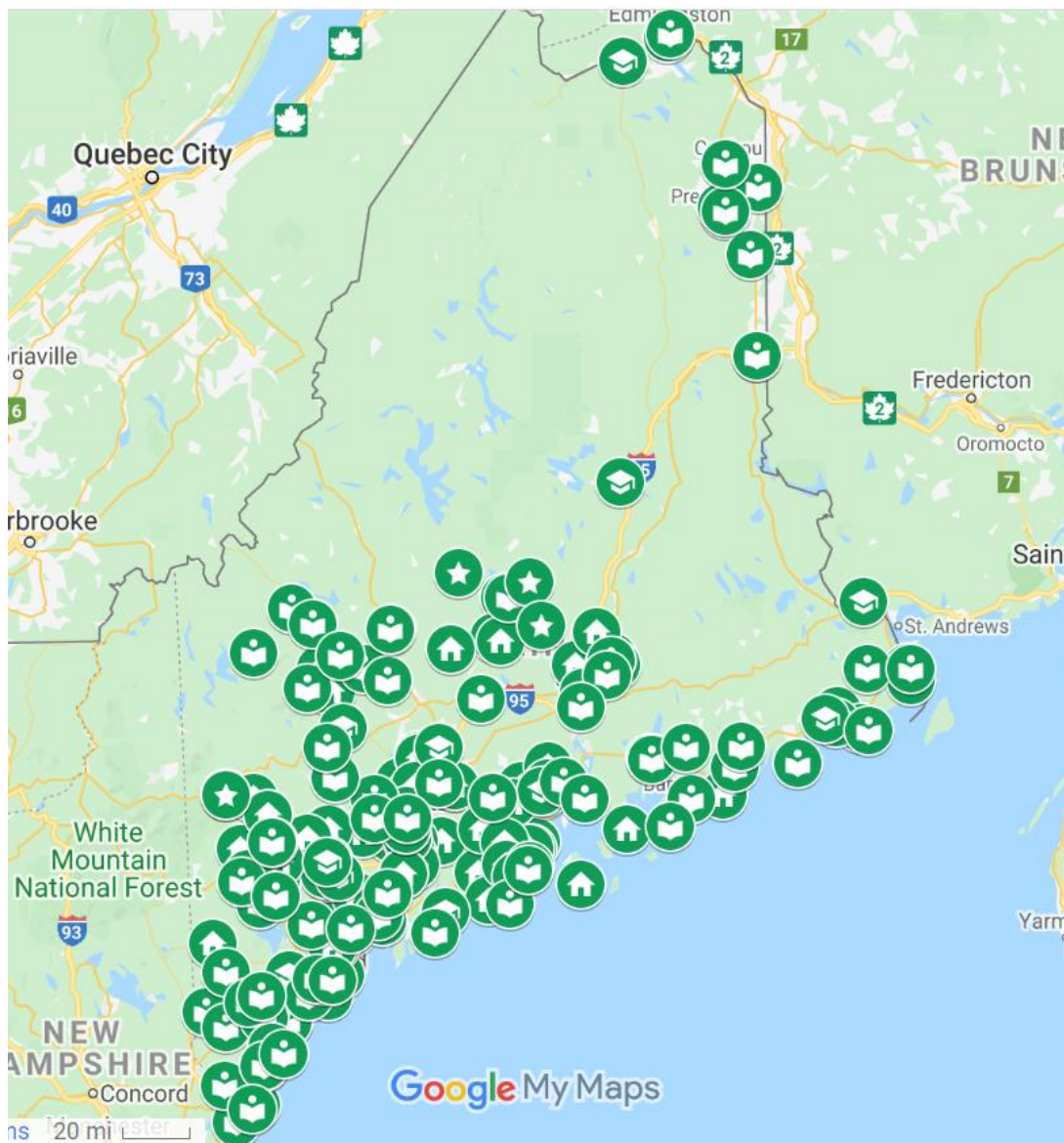
Maine State Librarian Jamie Ritter kicking off Grow with Google in Maine – late 2019 to early 2020

2020: Pandemic

Reliance on library broadband BUT…
    …no access to library computers

Reliance on library wifi BUT…
    …e-rate and equipment concerns

Back to lending hotspots BUT…
    …no hotspots to be had

Network Maine's Study-from-Car Initiative

Registered with the site:

Higher Ed: 24

K12: 111

By standards:

Public Libraries: 256

Libraries continue to be anchor institutions for connectivity, workforce development in rural and remote communities, and for advancements in access to education and digital equity.

Libraries are ready to move forward with new, groundbreaking technology, such as extended reality (XR); distributed ledger technology (part of blockchain); and telehealth. Funding was ready to look at micro-credentialing, moving identification and earned credentials through differential privacy; ebook and education materials; and walk-in borrowing.

Libraries, instead, are clamoring for funding for access programs from five years ago. Ubiquitous strong broadband means libraries can move communities forward.

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lisa.mn.shaw@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisanealshaw/
@LisaNeal19

www.maine.gov/msl

Resources:

Network Maine Annual Reports: http://networkmaine.net/?page_id=210

Network Maine Study-from-Car: http://networkmaine.net/?p=480